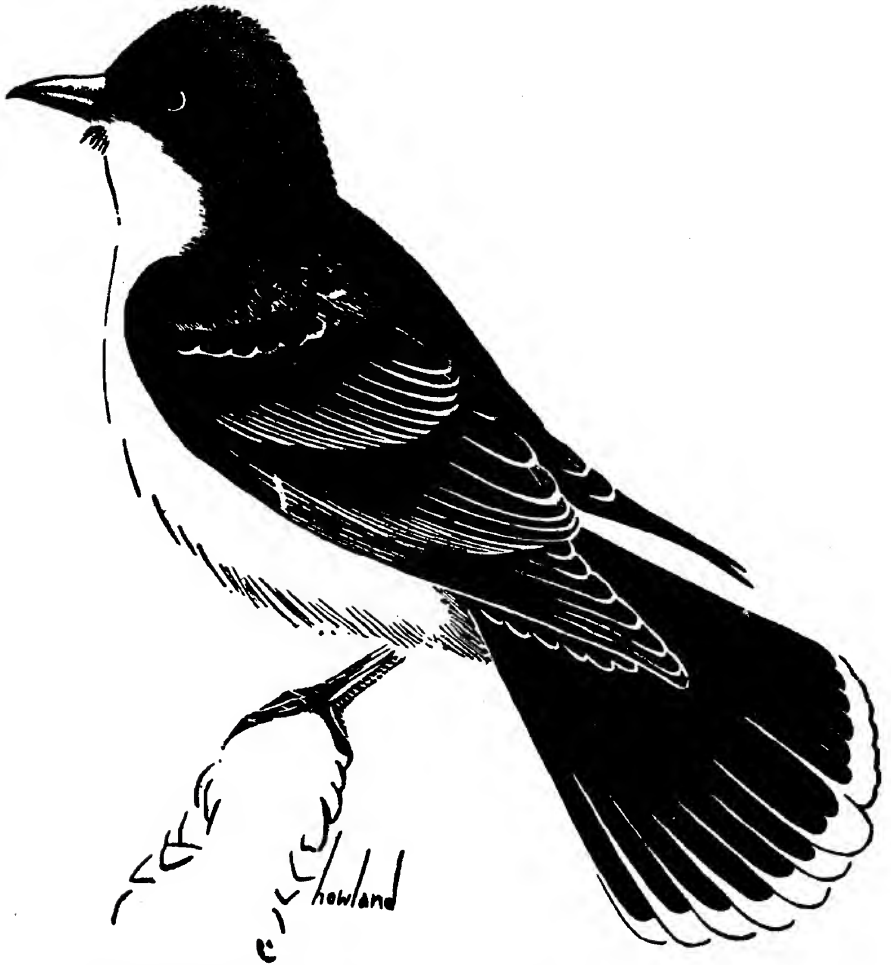


The **KINGBIRD**

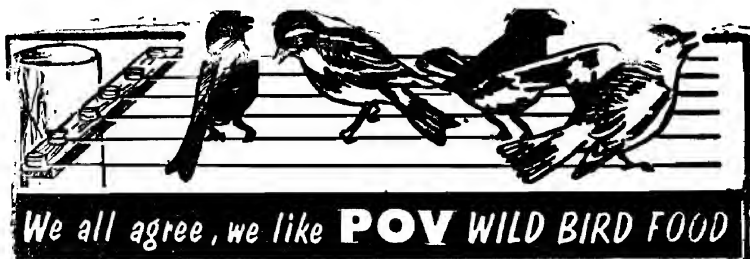


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The Kingbird is a publication of The Federation of New York State Bird Clubs, Inc., which has been organized to further the study of bird life and to disseminate knowledge thereof, to educate the public in the need of conserving natural resources and to encourage the establishment and maintenance of sanctuaries and protected areas. Individual member's dues are **\$3.00** annually and all individual members receive the Kingbird. A member wishing to make an additional contribution may become a Sustaining Member (\$5) a Supporting Member (\$10) or a Life Member (\$100—"payable over a four-year period in equal installments until the full amount is paid", if member so desires.) For all classes of membership contact the treasurer, Kenneth B. Niven, 61 Broadway, Monticello.



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Recommended by Roger Tory Peterson

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The KINGBIRD

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Vol. 14 No. 2

May, 1964

Pages 65 - 128

CONTENTS

President's Page	Robert S. Arbib, Jr. 66
New York Biogeography and Bird Distribution	William L. Webb 67
James Ellsworth DeKay	Minnie B. Scotland 74
Evening Grosbeak Banding at Watertown, New York ..	Frank A. Clinch 77
An Oneida Lake Purple Martin Census	Margaret S. Rusk 81
Conservation News	Maxwell C. Wheat, Jr. 84
Summary of Fruit Crop Fall and Winter 1963-1964	Stephen W. Eaton 86
January Waterfowl Count, 1964	John L. Mitchell 87
Field Notes:	
Chimney Swift Nest in A Hollow Tree Stump	Paul M. Kelsey 90
On the Reluctance of Bonaparte's Gulls to Fly under Objects	Peter W. Post 91
Boreal Owl in Monroe County	John Foster 91
On Albino Swallows	Roy Latham 92
Highlights of the Winter Season:	
December 1 - March 31	David B. Peakall 92
Regional Reports for the Winter Season, 1963-1964	94

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PRESIDENT'S PAGE

Members and member clubs have already received their invitations to our 17th Annual Convention, and from advance information our first visit to Poughkeepsie promises to be one of the best organized and most rewarding in our history. The meeting, from Friday evening, May 22 to Sunday afternoon, May 24, will bring delegates and other members from all over New York State at a time when spring migration through the remarkable Hudson River valley should be at its peak. Important committee meetings, the annual business meeting, the papers session, and the annual banquet will offer real competition to the attractions out-of-doors. And of course one of the pleasantest features of these meetings is the seeing of old friends and the meeting with new ones of kindred interests from many parts of the state. The President can only add his invitation to that already sent to you by the host club, the Ralph T. Waterman Bird Club, of Poughkeepsie. We look forward to 100% representation of our member clubs this year, and a new high in total attendance.

One item of new business that could not wait for our 1964 Annual Meeting was the establishment of a memorial for our late President, John J. Elliott. The many friends of John Elliott wanted to start the project now, while his memory is so vividly alive. Last October your President appointed a John J. Elliott Memorial Committee of eleven members, all of them old friends and birding companions of John's. This winter, discussions and meetings have been held, and a memorial plan proposed.

With Cornelius J. Ward as Chairman, and Adrian Dignan as Treasurer, the committee has decided to set up a perpetual memorial fund, whose annual proceeds shall be used for the encouragement of the publication of knowledge of the bird life of our state. The Elliott Memorial Prize shall be given each year at our annual banquet, to that author of a paper published during the preceding year, in the *Kingbird*, deemed most worthy by a panel of judges. Details of the prize, eligibility, and judging will be announced at our Poughkeepsie meeting. Meanwhile, a letter asking for contributions in the memory of John J. Elliott has gone out to all of us. In your President's view, this is a worthy and appropriate memorial; one that will last over the years, one that is in perfect keeping with John Elliott's interest in seeing our ornithologists, no matter how amateur, publish their findings, and one that, (even if it were not a memorial to a fine man) will be an excellent stimulus for the improvement of quality of the contents of *The Kingbird*. Your President, he hopes, sent in the first cheque.

Although it has taken most of the winter, the many committees of our Federation now have active and interested Chairmen, many of them newly-appointed. There is, of course, always a vacancy on any committee you are interested in, and there are committees concerned with every aspect of our Federation's work. If you would like to lend your services, if you would like to take a more active part in our work, and have a voice in our decisions, don't hesitate. Contact one of the chairmen listed in this issue of the *Kingbird*. Your participation will be gratefully welcomed.

See you all at Poughkeepsie! And bring a new member with you.
Robert S. Arbib Jr., 226 Guion Drive, Mamaroneck

NEW YORK BIOGEOGRAPHY AND BIRD DISTRIBUTION

WILLIAM L. WEBB

New York State has few (if any) sharply delineated biological communities. Although the traveler who moves from Lake Erie to the Hudson River, or from Pennsylvania to Canada, notices changes in the landscape and in land use, the natural communities of living organisms do not fall into sharp clear patterns of distribution. It might be said that the entire State is one natural community with minor variations due to local climatic, physiographic, and geologic conditions. No part of New York is completely "natural" as this huge biotic community is masked and modified by various types and intensities of agriculture and forestry.

Yet even the casual observer in New York notices many differences between the forested mountains of the Adirondacks and the rolling agricultural land of the lake plains, between the steep ridge and valley topography of the southern tier counties and the equally steep but dome-like mountains of the Catskills. An ornithologist also notices differences in kinds and numbers of birds which live in different parts of the State. Some rare species in the Adirondacks are abundant in the lake plains, for example, and some common species in the Hudson valley are rare in the St. Lawrence valley.

Drawing a map to show these differences in bird distribution is a difficult task. Two quite different methods of approach are possible. The first is to determine the distribution of many individual species and from these data to draw conclusions on the presence and geographic boundaries of ecological communities. This method, although most logical, is not easy to apply. No two species have identical range limits so a great deal of judgment must be used to fix boundaries of communities. At the present time not enough is known about bird distribution to make this practical for New York.

The second method is indirect. It involves study of distribution of environmental conditions which affect birds, and synthesizing from this study a map which shows the areas which are relatively uniform in physical, chemical, and biological conditions. Such a map is not a map of bird distribution. Rather it is a rational and logical attempt to map bird habitats. Factors which must be considered include natural vegetation, land use, topography, soils, geology, climate, and many others. None of these components of the environment are simple, and all of them are interrelated in many complex ways. In drawing the map the investigator attempts to recognize "*logical* ecological types." The use of the word logical does not imply that there are illogical ecological types (except as they exist in the mind of man) since an ecological type must mean a community of organisms which have mutual relations to each other and common relations to the environment. Such a community cannot be illogical. The phrase — logical ecological types — is used to indicate that human judgment is used to recognize the types. The map is not the result of a precise scientific investigation, but must be considered a theory on the distribution of natural biological communities. This theory should be critically tested and examined to determine if it is valid.

This preliminary report is made to present such a theory of community distribution. It is hoped that many ornithologists will test the theory to

determine if it is a valid expression of bird distribution in New York State.

Three limitations have been put on the work: 1. that the biotic regions recognized should be related to a continent-wide system of recognized standing; 2. that the communities recognized should be evident to amateur ornithologists and ecologists and not need a high degree of training and experience to make them useful; and 3. that the communities should be based on conditions as they exist under the present intensity of land use which has so radically altered the original or natural vegetation.

No biotic community is ever entirely limited to one geographic area. There are always examples of particular communities which are far removed in space from the main center of distribution of that community. These "exceptions" do not invalidate the biogeographic classification. They should be considered merely as unique but normal situations where a small sample of one ecologic type is set down in a larger matrix of another ecologic type. For example, a cool sphagnum bog in the midst of a warm dry oak forest should not be considered an invalidation of the ecological classification of the area as an oak forest with its associated plants and animals.

In this kind of work there is a temptation to select "indicator" species; to state that if a particular plant or animal species is present it is an indicator of a particular biotic community. Such an attempt would be premature for New York birds. Perhaps with further experience with the system proposed here, it may be possible to assign indicator species to the Biotic Provinces and Biotic Districts.

Figure 1 indicates that in New York two major divisions or Biotic Provinces are recognized, and that these are divided into 11 subdivisions or Biotic Districts. The two Biotic Provinces cover large geographic areas and include one or more major ecologic associations (Dice 1943). Each Biotic Province covers a large and continuous geographic area and may be distinguished from neighboring provinces by type of vegetation, ecological climax, flora, fauna, climate, physiography, and soil. The Biotic Districts are continuous areas within Biotic Provinces which are recognizable ecological units that differ in less important respects. The 11 Biotic Districts delineated in Figure 1 are identical with the "Game Ranges" recognized by Smith (1955). His divisions are based on differences in geology, topography, physiography, climate, soils, water areas, vegetation, land use, and game species found or likely to succeed therein. In a few places names of the districts are not the same as used by Smith, but the district boundaries are the same. This adoption of Smith's areas is an indication of the regard I have for his work.

In the past several years I have tried to relate bird distribution to these Biotic Provinces and Biotic Districts. Data available have been so limited that a real test of the soundness of these divisions in relation to bird distribution has not been possible. The map and brief descriptions of the areas are being published at this time in the hope that many ornithologists working in all parts of the State will test this "system" to see if it is valid and to see where modifications are needed. All suggestions from those who use this ecological classification will be appreciated.

Figure 1.



CAROLINIAN BIOTIC PROVINCE

The "lowland" areas of the State are termed the Carolinian Biotic Province following the terminology of Dice (1943) and not differing significantly from the area Merriam (1898) termed the Carolinian Life Zone (or Faunal Area). Considerable other precedent exists for grouping the Long Island, lower Hudson, and lake plains areas. The Carolinian Biotic Province as shown in Figure 1 corresponds quite closely with the A and B Zones of Bray (1930) and Hotchkiss (1932); it is the Central Forest Region of the Society of American Foresters (1954); the deciduous forest biome as mapped by Pitelka (1941); and it includes both the beech-maple and the oak-chestnut regions of Braun (1950).

The most conspicuous feature of most of the Carolinian Biotic Province is the level to gently rolling topography. The Southeastern Highlands Biotic District is an exception to this, and limited local areas within some of the other districts show sharp relief. Soils in general are of high to medium productivity (Howe, 1933) with bedrock materials made up chiefly of limestones, shales, and slates (except in the Southeastern Highlands and on Long Island) (Cline, 1955). The growing season averages about 160 days or longer over most of the Province with an average mean temperature during the growing season of about 65 degrees Fahrenheit or higher (Mordoff, 1949).

The climax vegetation of this Province is a very diversified hardwood forest. Chestnut was originally an important constituent with several species

of oaks, hickories, and some tulip poplar in many parts of the Province. Conifers are not conspicuous in the subclimax or climax vegetation.

Land use by man has greatly modified the "landscape" today. Much of the area has fertile soils and a great human population to utilize the agricultural production. Although the type of agriculture is variable depending on local soil conditions, local climate, and availability of markets, most of the Province has an intensive type of land use.

Four biotic districts are recognized in the Carolinian Biotic Province, all of them based on Smith's (1955) Game Ranges.

Lake Plain Biotic District. (Map number 1.) This District borders the Great Lakes and is characterized by its gently rolling topography. It is bounded on the south by the sharp change in topography between the lake plains and the hilly Appalachian Plateau. Much of the original hardwood forest of the District has been eliminated or modified by the intensive agriculture which has been practiced for many years. A very high percentage of the District is intensively cultivated for a variety of cereal grains and for truck crops, and some is used for pasture and orchards. The remaining forests are generally on the poorly drained sites or on local areas of poor soils. Even these forests have been greatly modified by logging, pasturing, and fire, and few indicate their climax character at the present time.

Hudson Valley Biotic District. (Map number 2.) This District extends from the southern end of Lake George southward along the Hudson to the Southeastern Highlands District and along the ancient river valley to the New Jersey border. Mountainous terrain in surrounding areas makes the District distinct and easy to recognize. The Adirondacks and Catskills form its western border and the Taconics, the Rensselaer Plateau, and the Southeastern Highlands mark the eastern border. Most of these lands have been cleared for agriculture and urban development, and much of the District is still intensively used for general farming, truck gardening, and for orchards. The original climax oak-chestnut forest and its associated species are difficult to find.

Southeastern Highlands Biotic District. (Map number 3.) The rough topography of this District sets it apart from surrounding areas. The thin, stony, acid soils are of low productivity. Although much of the less rugged area was at one time cultivated, now most of the area is covered by relatively poor quality tree growth. The original forest was of oak and chestnut. Now oak predominates in most areas. The climate is mild because of the proximity of the ocean with a growing season of around 180 days. This District is an interesting mixture of vegetation with many southern species which survive because of the mild climate and with some northern species which find conditions suitable on the thin acid soils. Special study should be made of this District to determine if the bird fauna is more like the Carolinian or the Canadian Biotic Province. It is here called Carolinian because of the mild climate.

Coastal Plain Biotic District. (Map number 4.) Long Island and the southern portion of Westchester County are included in this District. The outstanding feature of the area is the mildness and stability of the climate due to the moderating influence of the ocean. The growing season of 180 to 195 days (Mordoff, 1949), the longest in the State, encourages growth of species which do not survive in other parts of New York. Most of the

western part of this District is covered by urban development, and intensive land use characterizes the entire area.

CANADIAN BIOTIC PROVINCE

The highlands that dominate the rest of New York State are best termed the Canadian Biotic Province following the terminology of Dice (1943). This is in general agreement with the area called the Alleghanian Faunal Area of the Transition Life Zone by Merriam (1898). With only minor changes it is the C and D Zones of Bray (1930) and Hotchkiss (1932). It is the Northern Forest Region of the Society of American Foresters (1954). It is the hemlock-white pine-northern hardwood region of Braun (1950). And it includes both the coniferous forest biome and coniferous-deciduous forest ecotone as mapped by Pitelka (1941).

Topography, geology, and soils vary within this large region but many fundamental similarities make it desirable to group the seven biotic districts into one province. Most of the Province is dominated by hills, ridges, and mountains. Glaciation has been an important force in removal of original soil materials and depositing other materials. The soils are of medium to low productivity (Howe, 1933) and in most cases are strongly acid in reaction (Cline, 1955).

The climate of this Province is quite severe with long cold winters. The growing season over most of the area is less than 150 days and in the Adirondacks may be less than 100 days (Mordoff, 1949). Snow usually accumulates in the winter and may remain on the ground in spring even when vegetation in the Carolinian Biotic Province has broken dormancy and is turning green. Average temperature in the growing season is less than 60 degrees Fahrenheit in the Adirondacks and is generally not over 65 degrees in the rest of the Province.

The climax forest of the Canadian Biotic Province is a hardwood forest in which sugar maple is usually conspicuous. Beech, yellow birch, and basswood are abundant hardwood components of the climax, and hemlock is usually present in mixture with the hardwoods with its abundance controlled by local edaphic and climatic conditions.

In the Adirondacks, red spruce and balsam fir dominate considerable areas, but in most instances these coniferous stands are due to local conditions. The spruce slope types on the mountaintops and the spruce flat stands in the valley bottoms are only restricted examples of a northern vegetation type set in a matrix of hardwood forest which provides the ecological character of the entire biotic community. Many persons have separated the Adirondacks as a separate ecological unit because of the coniferous component of the vegetation. It seems better to distinguish the Adirondacks as a biotic district but not give the area the rank of a province.

Land use has not modified the "landscape" of the Canadian Biotic Province as drastically as in the Carolinian. Although some intensive agriculture is practiced, particularly on the valley floors, the character of the Canadian is a woods with agricultural inclusions rather than a cleared area with woody inclusions. Soil fertility is the chief factor which has limited agricul-

tural use and the vast majority of lands, once used for crops but now abandoned, occur here. The extent of agricultural use varies in the different biotic districts of the Canadian Biotic Province.

Seven biotic districts are recognized in the Canadian Biotic Province, following Smith's (1955) Game Ranges.

New England Upland Biotic District. (Map number 5.) Smith (1955) calls this area the Rensselaer Plateau-Taconic Mountain Game Range. This name is so long as to be objectionable: therefore I propose the area be called New England Upland Biotic District following the usage of some physiographers. This District is a rugged section of several different geologic origins. Soils are stony, acid and rather poorly drained. Much of the area has never been cleared for agriculture, and areas once cleared have largely reverted to forest. In many respects the forest is similar to those of the Adirondacks with most of the same tree species predominating.

St. Lawrence Biotic District. (Map number 6.) Vegetation places this large area with the Canadian Biotic Province even though it is not a highland, as is most of the rest of the Province. Forest cover of this District is a modification of the Adirondack hardwood forest including sugar maple, beech, hemlock, basswood and birch plus some oaks. Although the soils are mostly of medium productivity, some are very productive. In spite of the rather short growing season the District is quite intensively utilized for agriculture with considerable amounts of dairying and the growing of small grains.

Tug Hill Biotic District. (Map Number 7.) In some respects the Tug Hill Biotic District differs from the Adirondack District; however, in most respects it is ecologically similar. Essentially, the Tug Hill Biotic District is an outlier of the Adirondack District surrounded on all sides by lowland areas. The land-use picture is much the same as for the Adirondacks, and climate, though somewhat wetter, is not drastically different. Further investigation may lead to the combination of the Adirondack and the Tug Hill Districts. At this time they are separated for two reasons: first because the areas are geographically isolated from each other, and second because too little information on faunal differences is available.

Adirondack Biotic District. (Map number 8.) The Adirondack Biotic District is the only large District in the State which has not been subjected to intensive clearing of land for agricultural use. Here cold winters with deep snow accumulation, short growing season (90 to 140 days), and low temperature in the growing season (often well under 60 degrees) combined with low-productivity soils and remoteness from markets prevented agriculture from getting much of a start. However, the Adirondack forest is far from a virgin stand as most of it has been logged and vast areas have been burned. Sugar maple is a predominant species in most of the hardwood stands with yellow birch almost equally characteristic. Coniferous types are in important and conspicuous addition to the larger areas of hardwood forest and are considered by many to be a subclimax type of vegetation or a local edaphic climax.

Mohawk Valley Biotic District. (Map number 9.) This District is intermediate geographically and ecologically between the Adirondack and Appalachian Districts. It is limited to the narrow valley of the Mohawk

River. Original forest cover was northern hardwood dominated by beech, sugar maple and hemlock. A very high percentage of the land is under cultivation because of the fertile soils and availability of transportation and markets.

Appalachian Biotic District. (Map number 10.) Although the vast area of the "southern tier" varies considerably from west to east, there is surprising similarity throughout the District. The ancient plateau is deeply dissected by streams which generally trend north and south. Soils on the slopes are shallow, acid, and relatively poorly drained. The valley bottom soils are more fertile and it is here that agriculture is most intense. The northerly edge of the District is quite distinct and easy to recognize because the streams break out of the "hills" and meander across the rolling lake plains. The growing season averages 120 to 160 days with a mean temperature in the growing season of from 60 to 65 degrees. The climax hardwood forests are composed chiefly of sugar maple, beech, and basswood, with some hemlock. Much of the forest has been cut over but species composition has not been greatly changed by logging. A great deal of hill land has been cleared and abandoned in this District. Such abandoned areas usually revert to woody growth in a short time.

Catskill Biotic District. (Map number 11.) The Catskills differ geologically from the Appalachian Biotic District, but in many ecological respects they are similar. Soils are stony, acid, and of low to medium fertility. Farms are maintained chiefly on the narrow, somewhat more fertile valley floors. Original forest cover was dominated by beech, sugar maple, yellow birch, and hemlock with some spruce and fir at high elevations and some oaks in valley bottoms. These forests have been heavily utilized.

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JAMES ELLSWORTH DE KAY

On a front page of a volume entitled Zoology of New York, or the New York Fauna, is this inscription:

To
WILLIAM C. BOUCK,
Governor of the State of New-York.
I submit a continuation of a Report on the Zoology of the State.
And have the honor to be,
With great respect,
Your obedient servant,
JAMES E. DE KAY.

In 1836 James E. De Kay had been intrusted with the stupendous task of covering "both botany and zoology" for a Natural History survey of New York State. The years of research that followed resulted in the publication of five volumes from 1842 to 1849. In these he had described more than 1,600 species of animals, including mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians, fishes, molluscans, and crustaceans, introducing common names as far as possible

The introduction written in Volume I, Part I by William H. Seward, then Governor of New York, stated that "Altho the study of ornithology has not been pursued with the especial object of determining the species of birds indigenous to the State, still, in the comprehensive treatises which have issued from the press, there is no deficiency of information on that interesting subject." It was De Kay who organized much of this material in Volume I, Part II in 1843. He classified the birds into six orders which he called Accipitres, Passeres, Gallinae, Grallae, Lobipedes, and Natatores. It must be remembered that it was in the latter part of the nineteenth century that most of the fundamental work took place upon which our present knowledge of classification is based. In 1895 the A.O.U. Check-list had sixteen orders. Several species of birds well known at the present time were unknown to De Kay, such as the Alder (Traill's) flycatcher, Prairie horned lark, Rough-winged swallow, Migrant (Loggerhead) shrike, Louisiana water-thrush, Connecticut warbler, Hudsonian (Boreal) chickadee and Gray-checked thrush. However, the 1843 Volume had one hundred and forty-one plates showing three hundred and nine figures accompanied by descriptions. The artist, J. W. Hill, a lithographer of Endicott, N. Y., made the illustrations, usually of live birds, though of necessity some were done from specimens, carefully mounted by persons familiar with the habits of the living bird.

DeKay divided the State of New York into four districts: The Northern, The Hudson Valley, The Atlantic, and The Western. The Northern was bounded on the west by Lake Ontario and the St. Lawrence River, on the eastern side by Lake Champlain and Lake George, and lying north of the Mohawk Valley. The chief growth of trees in this district was the spruce, pine, larch, balsam, fir and cedar. To quote the author: "It forms the southern limits of the migration of many arctic birds; and we accordingly meet here with the Canada jay and Spruce grouse, the Swan, the Raven and the Arctic woodpecker." The Hudson Valley district included counties watered

by the Hudson River and its tributaries, chief of which was the Mohawk, which after a course of about one hundred and forty miles enters the Hudson from the west, at a distance of one hundred and sixty miles from its entrance into the ocean. The Atlantic district comprised Long Island and again quoting De Kay: "It is remarkable for the abundance and variety of its birds. Here we find the extreme southern limits of the migrations of the arctic species, and the northernmost termination of the wanderings of the birds of the torrid zone. Thus, we find in winter in this district the Eider duck, the Little white goose, the Great cormorant, the Auk, and many others from the Arctic ocean. During the heats of summer, we meet with the Turkey buzzard and Swallow-tailed kite, the Fork-tailed flycatcher from the tropical wilds of Guiana, and numerous others from the south." The Western district consisted of the rest of the State's area to the west of the Northern and Hudson Valley districts. (To-day there are twelve regions of New York State listed by Drs. E. M. Reilly and Kenneth Parkes, and an additional one hundred and twenty species of birds.)

James Ellsworth De Kay was born in Lisbon, Portugal in 1792. He was the eldest son of George and Catherine (Colman) De Kay and a brother of Commodore George Colman De Kay. His father was an American Sea Captain who had lived in Lisbon for many years and had chosen a girl of Irish parentage for a wife. When James was two years old his family came to New York to live. He was only ten when his father died and fourteen when he lost his mother. The young teenager grew up in and near New York City. He attended a school in Connecticut but unfortunately its name and location have not been recorded. He was described as "early showing bookish proclivities and being a keen observer and student of nature." At nineteen he was a medical student, spending at least one summer at Guilford, Connecticut in reading to "fit himself" for that profession. However, Botany and Zoology attracted him more than medicine.

In his early twenties he became closely associated with a group of young writers in New York. Among them were William Cullen Bryant and James Fenimore Cooper. Throughout his life his relationships with literary men seem to have been more intimate than those with physicians. He was a close friend of the poets, Fitz-Greene Halleck and Joseph Rodman Drake. De Kay was the first to read Halleck's tribute to Drake who was only twenty-five when he died. The poem has been referred to as one of the most exquisite epitaphs in the language, the first verse of which reads:

"Green to be the turf above thee,
Friend of my better days!
None knew thee but to love thee,
Nor named thee but to praise."

In the spring of 1818 De Kay went to Europe where he studied medicine at the University of Edinburgh and the next year took his degree there as a physician. He then returned to New York City and became interested in the Lyceum of Natural History which had been recently organized. De Kay edited the first two volumes of its transactions, acted as librarian, building up a collection of scientific books remarkable for its day, and helped in assembling a museum. He married Janet Eckford, daughter of Henry Eckford, an

American naval architect and ship builder in New York. Janet was also the sister of Drake's widow. They had three children, a son: James and two daughters: Marion and Janet. In order to work on his study of Natural History Dr. De Kay left New York City and established his permanent home, "The Locusts", a country place at Oyster Bay, Long Island, N. Y. His work was interrupted on the outbreak of cholera in New York City when he hastened to give his services to the afflicted although the practice of his profession was repugnant to him.

James E. De Kay was of a lively disposition and a great social favorite in New York. He would travel about, collecting facts and materials, from farmers, hunters, and fishermen, and contribute articles to the New York press. On November 21, 1851 Dr. De Kay died in Oyster Bay, just two months after the death of James Fenimore Cooper, his friend of many years standing.

The following recognition of De Kay's contribution to the knowledge of birds in New York State was written by the Director of the New York State Museum, John M. Clarke, in 1908:

"This State published — a comprehensive and finely illustrated treatise on the birds of the State prepared by the eminent ornithologist, James E. De Kay. Ever since its date of issue this work has been of fundamental value to all students of birds and may justly be regarded as, in a large degree, the primary inspiration of the present widespread interest among the people of the State in the science of ornithology."

Minnie B. Scotland, 42 Continental Ave., Cohoes 12047

NOTICES

Federation stationery is available to officers, committee chairmen, regional editors, etc. from our president.

Robert S. Arbib, Jr., 226 Guion Drive, Mamaroneck

HERONRY CENSUS

Mr. Walter E. Benning, R.D. #1, Clyde, N. Y. is undertaking a state-wide heronry census this year. He would be grateful for any information on the location of heronries, also if possible, a count of active nests.

EVENING GROSBEAK BANDING AT WATERTOWN, NEW YORK

FRANK A. CLINCH

Banding helps us to learn some facts about birds that could hardly be discovered in any other way. We can find out where our summer birds spend their winters and whether or not some individuals return the following summer. From banding records we can learn how far birds fly per day when they are migrating and how long they can be expected to live. Perhaps we can find out where our winter birds breed.

It is necessary to band a large number of birds, because for small non-game birds very few bands are ever found and reported. Among the easiest of our winter birds to band are the Evening Grosbeaks (*Hesperiphona vespertina*). Some years they are with us from December to the middle of May. On cold days especially they are hungry and eager for their sunflower seeds. One bird in a trap seems to attract others rather than to scare them away. Evening Grosbeaks are conspicuous birds and when one is found dead or injured it is likely to be noticed and its band number reported.



Evening Grosbeak with band. Photo by — Cecil Drake.

One of the thrills of bird banding is to band a new species. My first Evening Grosbeak was banded on April 8, 1955. At that time I would never have dreamed that so many more would follow. By January 1, 1964 I had banded a total of 5320 Evening Grosbeaks or slightly more than half of the 10,480 birds of 72 species I have banded in twelve years.

Birds to be banded can be caught in a number of types of traps. The four-cell Potter trap works very well for Evening Grosbeaks. Each cell can catch a single bird and the weight of the bird in the trap closes the door. A funnel-type trap which can take a dozen or more birds at a time can be

used. When several birds are busy feeding some find their way inside, but only rarely can one find its way out. The numbered aluminum bands are supplied by the Fish and Wildlife Service.

Banding does not seem to reduce the number of Evening Grosbeaks at our feeders. Some of them return soon after being banded and a few have been caught later the same day. Others are trapped again a few days or weeks later. The birds seem about as numerous at our feeders as at other places where they are not being banded.

Many persons in Watertown are interested in birds and put out sunflower seeds for them. Several of these feeders are located within a few blocks of our home. As a result the Evening Grosbeaks seem to shop around and many of them visit two or three feeders during the forenoon. Usually we have more than one flock a day. One flock can be told from another by its size, sex, and number of birds with bands. Individual birds shift from one flock to another frequently. One Evening Grosbeak I banded was trapped again three hours later two miles from the place of banding.

TABLE OF RECOVERIES AND FOREIGN RECOVERIES

State or Province	Recoveries	Foreign Recoveries
Manitoba	1	0
Ontario	22	8
Quebec	32	0
New Brunswick	5	0
Maine	4	1
New Hampshire	3	1
Vermont	2	2
Massachusetts	5	6
Connecticut	0	6
New York	29	14
New Jersey	1	2
Pennsylvania	19	9
Ohio	1	0
Michigan	9	1
Wisconsin	6	2
Iowa	1	0
Maryland	0	1
Virginia	3	1
West Virginia	3	0
Tennessee	1	0

Some days I have banded more birds than could be seen in any single flock. Several times I have banded thirty to forty birds a day. The best day was January 16, 1960 when I banded 114. The next day 58 more were banded.

A recovery means that a banded bird has been found and the band number reported to the Fish and Wildlife Service. The bird may be found dead or injured. A recovery can also mean that the bird was caught alive and released. The Fish and Wildlife Service sends a report of the banding and recovery to both the bander and the person making the recovery.

A foreign retrap means that a bander has trapped a bird already banded by another bander, but to the person who banded the bird it is a recovery.

Birds recovered the same winter they were banded have usually been found south of the place of banding. Recoveries were made at Deposit (3), Ithaca (2), Etna (2), Webster, Oneida, Herkimer and Candor, New York. Three were in Pennsylvania. A few birds that I have trapped have been banded the same winter in Ontario and one came from Vermont. Most recoveries in May, June and July have been in Canada.

The recoveries show the number of Evening Grosbeaks banded in Watertown and later found dead or alive in each state or province. The foreign retraps show the number banded in the places indicated and later trapped and released in Watertown, New York.

The Quebec recoveries include 13 birds shot during June and July on the west branch of the Patapedia River near Lac Humqui. They were reported by the late Monsieur Brosseau, St. Leon le Grand, Rimouski County. He was misinformed and believed that such recoveries were desired by the Fish and Wildlife Service. At least 270 Evening Grosbeaks were destroyed of which 69 had been banded in New York State by 15 banders. G. H. and H. C. Parks visited this region in June 1962. In eleven days, June 15-25, they trapped and banded 500 Evening Grosbeaks using sunflower seed as bait. They also trapped 16 banded birds, one of which I banded February 19, 1960.

A recovery can give some idea of how far a bird flies in a day. An Evening Grosbeak banded at Kingston, Ontario, April 16, 1958 was taken in one of my traps the next day. On January 13, 1956 I banded a female which flew into a window at Candor, New York on January 16. The distance is about 120 miles. A male I banded April 11, 1955 was re-trapped here seven years later on April 28, 1962. On May 25, 1962 this bird was trapped in New Brunswick, probably near Saint John. This is the longest time between banding and recovery of any bird I have banded.

When the first Evening Grosbeaks of the winter season appear at our feeders, they often seem to know just where to go for their favorite sunflower seeds. They act as if they had been here before. Banding returns do not indicate that they have ever been here before. The first birds to arrive seldom have bands. Banded Evening Grosbeaks do return the following winter or even two or three years later but the number is small, perhaps not more than two percent a year.

About two-thirds of the recoveries made outside of Quebec have been birds trapped and released by other banders. Some have been reported as dead or injured. Causes of death include: killed by automobile, flew against a window or other object, killed by hawk or owl and caught by a cat. Two were shot and one was frightened by a predator and flew against a window. In Watertown one apparently was killed by a Cooper's Hawk and one by a Saw-whet Owl.

An Evening Grosbeak which I trapped in Watertown December 11, 1963 had been banded in Syracuse, New York by Mr. Benjamin P. Burtt March 16, 1956. The length of time between banding and recovery, nearly seven years and nine months is the longest of any bird I have trapped. This interval is a little longer than for any bird I have banded.

A male Evening Grosbeak banded in Watertown April 16, 1960 was trapped in Seven Sister Falls, Manitoba, January 6, 1963. This is about one thousand miles from the place of banding and is the greatest distance of any recovery from the point of banding.

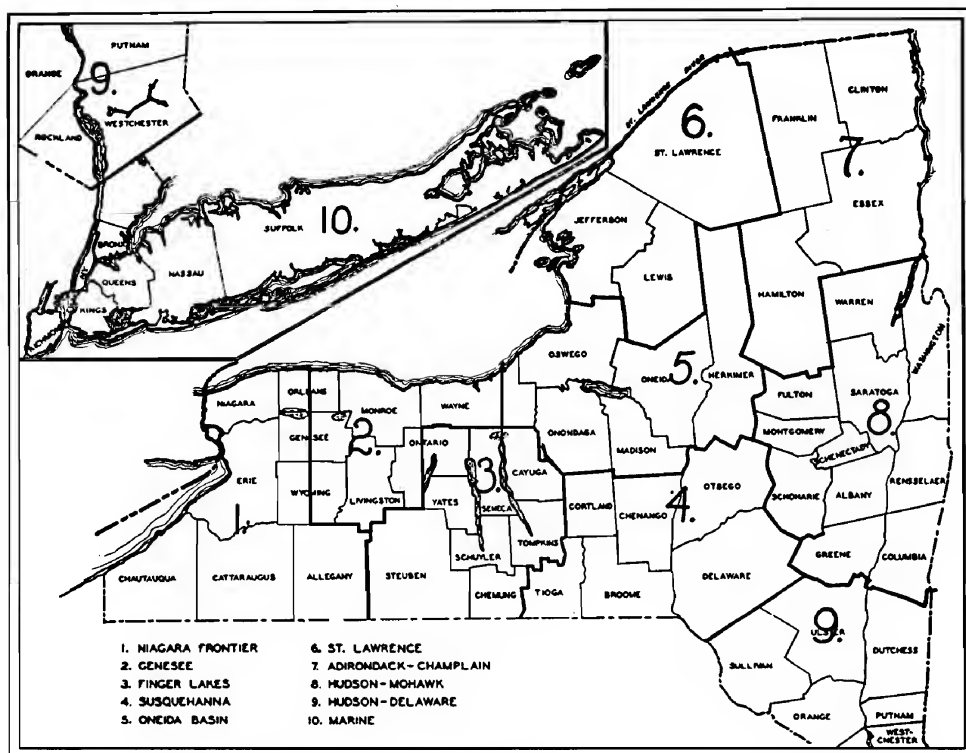
Banding of Evening Grosbeaks has been a very rewarding experience. It does require a great deal of time, but it is time well spent. There are still many things we do not know about birds and banding will help us to find some of the answers.

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173 Haley Street, Watertown

REPORTING REGIONS



For descriptions of Regions see Kingbird Vol. IV, Nos. 1 and 2

The Kingbird

AN ONEIDA LAKE PURPLE MARTIN CENSUS

MARGARET S. RUSK

Introduction

In response to the call, issued by the Publications and Research Committee at the Federation meeting in Jamestown last spring, for more work on the breeding status of New York State birds, Dr. David Peakall and I, Region 5 *Kingbird* editors, selected for investigation five species whose status in our Region is such that it would be interesting and easy for cooperating local observers to census them. Another consideration was to choose species which might over the years show effects of insecticides. The probable use of other census methods than the traditional square grid was envisioned.

One of the species chosen was the Purple Martin, as it is a simple matter to count the apartments in occupied houses. Dr. Fritz Scheider suggested a count around Oneida Lake, an area where many people have maintained Martin houses for years. This would be a means of obtaining an intensive census within a general Regional survey. (A summary of Martin house locations and occupancy reported by Dr. Sally Hoyt in the *Kingbird* included several of the older and larger colonies in Region 5.)¹

Method

Fortunately for the reliability of the data, is the widespread occupancy by the Purple Martins of the bird houses, which the summer camp owners and permanent residents traditionally put up at their homes on Oneida Lake.² Upon undertaking the lake census, I had no idea of the large amount of material available for counting. But I soon found that, for reasons of time, the census had to be continued on five different dates. The data below are presented under these dates. Censusing was done at various times of day; this did not seem to make any difference in the results.

Coverage: The census area lay within the four counties, Onondaga, Madison, Oswego, and Oneida, which surround 26-mile-long Oneida Lake. Roads covered included N. Y. Routes 31, 49, 13, which bound the lake but wherever there were county, town, or camp roads which provided closer access to the shore, the latter were taken rather than the boundary routes. As an indication of what this means in terms of thoroughness of coverage, the distance from Verona Beach to Bridgeport on Route 31 is about 14 miles, but my automobile speedometer showed that I had traveled 53 miles in censusing between these points. A total of about 17 hours was required for the entire census.

Using a convertible car facilitated hearing Martins in the vicinity as well as spotting the houses. I did not leave the car to hunt out houses on foot as this would have taken much longer. I estimate that I found 90% of the houses and this percentage did not vary significantly from one part of the lake to another.

Evidence of occupancy: The best evidence was birds at the houses feeding young or visible through the doorways incubating. But even if no

¹ Hoyt, op. cit.

² Stoner, op. cit.

birds were actually at a house, if it had nesting material and/or whitewash visible and there were Martins close by, I took this as evidence of occupancy by Martins, and estimated how many of the holes were occupied.

Since the quarter from Verona Beach to Bridgeport was not covered until August 17, when the Martins had started to flock, there were far fewer immediately at the houses as evidence of occupancy. Therefore I judged occupancy on the basis of nesting material and droppings observed, noting that there were numerous flocks of Martins in the general area. After completing this last part of the census, on the afternoon of August 17th I spot-checked two places which had had many Martins at the houses on July 26 and found that there, too, the Martins were no longer in the close vicinity but the houses still retained the look of occupancy. Therefore I think the estimates made that day in Madison County were quite accurate.

Estimates of numbers: The estimates of numbers of pairs were arrived at by first counting the number of holes in each house; for the houses which looked well occupied a pair of Martins for each hole was arbitrarily tallied, and for those which looked only partly occupied 40% (to the nearest whole number) of the number of holes was taken as the number of pairs; for those houses with no evidence of occupancy 0 pairs of Martins was listed. Ignoring the question of houses missed, I have calculated the maximum possible error for each of these three categories of houses, and arrive at a minimum of 1320 and a maximum of 2050 total pairs of Martins, with 1931 pairs (see data) the best estimate.

Data

Sector	Dates (1963)	no. houses checked	no. houses with est. occupancy of:			est. no. of prs. of Martins in houses occupied:	
			0%	100%	40%	100%	40%
Brewerton to Maple Bay, Onon. Co.	Jul. 26	37	1	24	12	500	60
Cleveland to Big Bay, Os. Co.	Jul. 27	39	8	30	1	526	4
North Bay-Jewell area, Oneida Co.	Aug. 4	15	5	10	0	210	0
Bridgeport vcy. Onon. & Madi- son Co.	Aug. 6	7	3	0	4	0	17
Sylvan Beach to Bridgeport, Oneida and Madison Co.	Aug. 17	58	7	45	6	560	54
Totals		156	24*	109	23	1796	+ 135 =
			* with a total of 242 holes				1931 prs.

Discussion

That the 100% category is so much larger than the 40% one bears out the well-known fact that Martins are gregarious birds.

Dividing the total number of holes by the total number of houses in each of the three percentage categories, one finds that the unoccupied houses average about 10 holes per house, the 40%-occupied ones about 15 holes, and the 100%-filled ones about 17 holes; this confirms my distinct impression while taking the census that the larger houses or groups of houses close together had the highest rate of occupancy. It also appeared to me that new houses were less apt to be occupied than well-weathered ones — but possibly some houses *looked* unoccupied because they were so new that they hadn't yet accumulated the debris of nesting.

Little House Sparrow competition was noted. At Constantia a House Sparrow was perched on the porch of a Martin house with several Martins present. At Toad Harbor a House Sparrow was at a small (10-apartment) Martin house, and no Martins were seen. No other House Sparrows were noted near Martin houses on the entire census, but probably more would have been observed if the census had been taken earlier in the summer.

The census should have been started earlier in July and been completed before August for the sake of greater ease in estimating occupancy when the birds are still at the houses incubating or feeding young.

Summary

The data above show an impressive rate of occupancy of houses by Martins around Oneida Lake, an area which would appear to be excellent Martin habitat. But, as a dedicated Central New York birdwatcher recently observed, "One census does not a swallow's summer make" — to obtain definite data on the status of a species, comparisons must be made from place to place and year to year. I have described in detail how this census was taken so that it can be repeated in a year or so and the later census be comparable with this one. After several censuses it will be possible to say with some assurance whether the status of the Purple Martin in this area is improving, worsening, or remaining fairly constant.

Other censuses, of a section of shoreline or of a river or of a smaller lake, in other Martin-rich areas of the State, would be most worthwhile as additional indices to the status of this valuable and well-beloved insectivorous species.

Acknowledgments

I am most grateful to Dr. David Peakall and Dr. Fritz Scheider for their helpful suggestions on the taking and reporting of this census.

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805 Comstock Avenue, Syracuse 10

CONSERVATION NEWS

MAXWELL C. WHEAT, JR.

In a way the New York World's Fair is a bit old fashioned.

But first let me assert that you are swept up into a kind of patriotism for man. It's like the emotion that sometimes comes over you at a parade — you are suddenly feeling proud to be an American. At gatherings and important events you may suddenly be buoyed by this kind of emotion for a profession, organization or even a hobby (bird watching included) or anything of which you belong.

As a spectator at the World's Fair panorama of what man has and promises to do, you can be overwhelmed with the creativity and potential of this species of which we are a part. It's a funny kind of feeling to find yourself experiencing this pride of also being of man. But you can't help it in the presence of a quietly dramatic sculpture or of atoms being fused with thunderous bursts.

While walking through the Fair grounds you are stunned to see a huge building begin to rotate. In another, moving chairs whirl you around in such a way as to give you a reasonable facsimile of an astronaut's view of our global home. Then in Futurama you are looking at everyday life as it may be only 60 years from now — men manning stations on the moon, a desert turned into a fruitful greenery, and a weekend resort underwater with guests propelling little submarine cycles (maybe the operators were fish watchers). Futurama in itself is a technical marvel as you are taken through a realistically wet-green tropical rain forest. The voice in your earphones says that this thick, lush kind of forest had been impenetrable "until" — at the instant your synchronized earphones vibrate with "until" you are swung around a corner where you are confronted with a futuristic highway stabbing through the virgin growth.

Any "futurama" of man should include the untouched wilderness — nature shown as the primevally intricate and marvelous mechanism that it is. What planner can know how greatly the futuramic world may have to depend for its resources on nature's ecology. Who can assuredly fathom how terribly dependent the well regulated and serviced man of the future might become on nature for rest and spiritual health?

To dramatize something that man had not put his hands on would be a challenge to a World's Fair. Perhaps in another 25 years our appreciation of this will have caught up with our technical progress. A World's Fair might then include a Pavilion of Conservation with shows and displays revealing the dynamics of nature's ecology and our dependence on it.

In this important respect the current World's Fair does not differ from those World's Fairs that saw the rising of the Eiffel Tower, George Westinghouse's electric light generator, Sally Rand's fan dance and television. Like the others, the 1964-65 World's Fair perpetuates man's triumph-over-nature self conceit that has been engendered by generations of "successful" conquests over nature. This is an attitude that goes back to those days when only persons with the greatest foresight could have seen the possible annihilation of so much vast woods, waters and innumerable creatures by exciting brand new inventions like the sputtering of a fragile nuts and bolts motor

when a gasoline substance was spoon-fed into its rickety esophagus. This attitude dates back to the early days when trees were adversaries against a pioneer's stubborn muscles and axe.

It is this old attitude that today accounts for so much use of the bulldozer and the dredge. What these don't obliterate, some of the other modern and clever versions of the gasoline engine threaten to tear up. Wilderness areas, like the Forest Preserve, which in other respects might be unmolested are now being smashed into by four-wheel driven vehicles, specially geared two-wheel scooters, endless-tracked sleds, and others. This is all proof that we can lick those big, thick woods.

This also sounds like something from minds that still believe in Santa Claus. But this is the age of the intricately knowledgeable mind. Its miracles and promises are being celebrated by the World's Fair. Yet here there is also something of that initial whoop-de-la and head-on use as though these marvels were toys under the Christmas tree. There seems to be little concern that thoughtless use of some of these could ruin the natural living room. Some of the toys are like none of the old Gilbert chemistry sets we got as kids. We've been getting poisons — DDT, aldrin, dieldrin, etc. Granted they looked very good for arresting some diseases and permitting worm-free apples. But since these were poisons you would have thought that this scientific age of men would have taken more precautions — even against the unforeseen possibilities. But no. We started throwing that stuff all over the land from airplanes. In this respect Miss Rachel Carson was sort of like the mother who at least tried to restrain the impetuous youngsters from ruining any more of their house.

Since "Silent Spring" and since such things as fish kills in the Mississippi and our own Lake George restraining measures are being advanced. New York State's legislature this year passed a bill to establish a state pesticides control bill. This was a tip-toe in the right direction.

In April Senator Abraham A. Ribicoff of Connecticut introduced a bill to permit Federal inspection of pesticide manufacturing plants. Representative John D. Dingell of Michigan has introduced a "pesticides coordination" bill which would require that any government agency planning a large-scale spraying program would have to first consult the Fish and Wildlife Service. This is bill H. R. 2857. Meanwhile H. R. 4487 would allow the Fish and Wildlife Service to screen new pesticides to determine effect on wildlife.

This scientific age should certainly cause people to question many accepted practices of the past — particularly that of predator control. In this regard an important report has been made to the Department of the Interior by its own advisory committee on wildlife management. This so called "Leopold Committee" has questioned the practices of the Department's Branch of Predator and Rodent Control. It has also criticized that of the states. The report reflects a concern for the diminishing numbers of many predator creatures.

The fact that we have had a Rachel Carson and a "Leopold Report" raises hope that by the next World's Fair there will be more general accept-

ance of conservation. Yet, I cannot help but think of an interesting exhibit at this Fair. It is a quite realistic dinosaur exhibit. The models of these prehistoric creatures looked real enough amid a swampy vegetation. Fortunately, we cannot blame man for what happened to these creatures.

Maybe there is a possibility that a future World's Fair might have to have a realistic (as though they were alive) exhibit of the extinct Bald Eagle, Osprey, Black-Crowned Night Heron, Cougar, Coyote, and perhaps even the American Robin. Sounds a little inconceivable. But in man's future anything can happen.

333 Bedell Street, Freeport, L. I.

SUMMARY OF FRUIT CROP FALL AND WINTER 1963-1964

Regions	Ontario Plain 2	Western Allegh. Plateau 1	Eastern Allegh. Plateau 4, 8	Lower Hudson 9
Red Pine			F, -	
White Pine		P	F, P	
Pitch Pine			F, -	
Hemlock		F	G, P	
Red Cedar	F			G
Bayberry				G
Ironwood (<i>Ostrya</i>)		P	G-F, F	
Blue Beech (<i>Carpinus</i>)		P	G-F, F	
Yellow Birch		P	G-F, F	
White Birch			G, F	
Amer. Beech	P	P	P, P	
White Oak	P	P	P, G	G
Red Oak	G	P	F-P, G	
Cucumber Tree		F		
Thornapple	G	F	G, F	
Wild Black Cherry		P	G-P, P	
Box Elder	G	F	G-F, P	G
Sugar Maple		P	F, F	
Grey Dogwood	G	G	G, -	
Red Osier Dogwood	F		G, -	
White Ash		P	G-P, P	
Black-berried Elder	G	F	G, -	
Sour Gum				G
Pin Oak				G

On the western Allegheny Plateau there was a general crop failure due possibly to severe frosts in May. There only the Hemlock, Box Elder and Cucumber Trees produced fair crops of fruits. The situation on the Eastern Allegheny Plateau appeared to be generally better and along the Lower Hudson and Delaware the crop was reported as good.

Stephen W. Eaton, Dept of Biology, St. Bonaventure Univ.

JANUARY WATERFOWL COUNT, 1964

JOHN L. MITCHELL

The tenth January Waterfowl Count of the Federation of New York State Bird Clubs, Inc. was conducted from the 18th through the 26th. All but one of the species (Mallard x Black) normal to the State were seen. The State total was 255,138 birds with two thirds of the count total being within region 10.

175 Lesser Scaup (region 10) are included with the Scaup.

2325 "Scoter type" (region 10) are included with the 4918 unidentified birds, which with the known species make up the totals.

A Short Review of the Ten Years

The ten year trends have evidenced themselves in three ways: (1) by a steady increase or decrease in numbers; (2) by a sharp rise or fall to a new level; (3) or by fluctuating from year to year.

The Mallards have increased while the Canvassbacks and Coots have declined. Brants (since 1959) and Redheads (since 1958) have shown a sharp rise, while the Pied-bill Grebe (since 1958) has fallen in numbers. The Goldeneyes and Buffleheads showed a moderate fluctuation. The Oldsquaws, Scoters, Ruddy Ducks, and Common Mergansers showed large fluctuations. The Canada Goose has shown large fluctuations in the State total but has increased steadily within regions 3 and 5.

The first column of the Table gives the State ten year average for each species. In addition to the birds listed in the Table, the following single birds were seen once:

Within Region 10—Western Grebe (1962); Lesser White-fronted Goose (1961); Cinnamon Teal (1957); Tufted Duck (1956).

Within Region 1 — Smew (1960).

I wish to thank the following Regional leaders for their help in this Census:

Region 1. Mr. Harold D. Mitchell	Region 6. Mr. Arthur W. Allen
2. Mr. Walter Listman	8. Mr. Guy Bartlett
3. Dr. Sally Hoyt	9. Mr. Edward D. Treacy
4. Mr. Leslie E. Bemont	10. Mr. Irwin M. Alperin
5. Dr. David B. Peakall	

345 Conrad Drive, Rochester 16

FEDERATION OF N. Y. S. B. C. — 1964 WATERFOWL COUNT

88

The Kingbird

	10 Year Ave	1964	Regions 1	2	3	4	5	6	8	9	10
Common Loon	126.4	262	—	—	2	—	2	—	—	—	258
Red-throated Loon	31.5	35	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	35
Red-necked Grebe	4.6	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3
Horned Grebe	1141.4	701	8	9	12	—	22	2	—	2	536
Pied-billed Grebe	62.9	22	1	—	8	—	3	—	—	1	9
Mute Swan	481.8	667	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	2	663
Whistling Swan	2.0	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Canada Goose	1932.5	3137	—	2	17	—	26	14	—	1	2915
Brant	13387.8	23086	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	23086
Snow Goose	2.1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Mallard	6752.5	11804	728	109	1385	413	524	29	32	93	7646
Black Duck	23608.6	29974	1172	143	1540	110	525	256	72	54	24960
Mallard x Black	1.6	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Gadwall	130.4	381	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	381
Pintail	135.6	102	2	—	4	—	7	—	—	—	87
Green-winged Teal	92.2	211	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	202
Blue-winged Teal	0.7	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3
European Widgeon	1.8	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
American Widgeon	3087.3	2923	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	2921
Shoveller	35.8	30	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	30
Wood Duck	8.0	15	1	1	4	—	—	—	—	2	7
Redhead	6371.5	11426	162	11	11013	60	168	—	—	1	11
Ring-necked Duck	341.9	243	4	—	17	—	4	—	—	5	160
Canvasback	15528.7	9363	4333	7	1680	28	34	6	—	10	2957
Scaup	86746.5	106067	3133	940	2984	1	6309	233	—	1	92466
Common Goldeneye	16091.8	16539	3535	4358	708	76	1250	708	22	115	5767
Barrow's Goldeneye	1796.7	2045	141	80	89	—	93	5	—	—	1637
Bufflehead	0.5	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Oldsquaw	5805.0	10000	2308	6246	31	—	103	166	—	—	1146
Harlequin	1.5	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	6
Common Eider	10.8	73	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	73
King Eider	9.5	20	5	2	—	—	1	—	—	—	12
White-winged Scoter	9273.7	8210	52	212	—	—	3	—	—	—	7943
Surf Scoter	972.7	876	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	876
Common Scoter	369.7	672	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	672
Ruddy Duck	216.6	101	—	1	5	—	—	—	—	—	95
Hooded Merganser	176.4	142	7	—	1	—	2	—	—	6	126
Common Merganser	10033.1	7872	3120	508	64	67	3240	239	1	325	308
Red-breasted Merganser	2896.3	2586	521	51	10	—	21	—	—	—	1983
American Coot	818.1	619	—	—	262	1	3	—	—	71	282
		255138	19237	12681	20311	756	12650	1673	783	2083	184964

NEW YORK STATE CONSERVATION — GROUND AND AERIAL SURVEY

Within Region	I	II	II, V	III	III, V	V	V, VI	VI	VII, VIII	VIII, IX	X	N. Y. Total
Flight -----	5-5A	6	5	6	6	6	4	4	3	2	1	
Mute Swan -----	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	605	605
Canada Goose -----	—	1	—	—	58	60	—	2	2	—	2645	2768
Brant -----	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	23840	23840
Mallard -----	145	—	—	412	730	—	72	9	1	182	5879	7430
Black Duck -----	1305	—	118	1259	460	—	201	82	346	670	27494	32681
Gadwall -----	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	2
Pintail -----	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	15	15
Blue-w Teal -----	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	20	20
Am. Widgeon -----	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	1228	1230
Wood Duck -----	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	4
Redhead -----	—	—	—	3940	550	650	—	—	—	—	1	5141
Canvasback -----	4625	—	—	1079	20	602	—	—	—	35	5261	11622
Scaups -----	4570	—	1440	3520	435	432	800	200	1206	45	60565	73213
Com. Goldeneye -----	5780	—	2995	1526	275	113	1265	3450	3075	30	8265	26774
Bufflehead -----	—	—	60	11	22	—	3	—	40	—	1308	1444
Oldsquaw -----	—	—	25	6	—	5	125	—	—	—	176	337
Scoter -----	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5	6874	6879
Ruddy Duck -----	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	50	300	350
Mergansers -----	1560	—	374	159	115	26	130	3019	1043	47	1052	7525
Am. Coot -----	—	—	—	60	30	—	—	—	—	—	—	90
Unidentified -----	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	700	700
TOTAL -----												202670

FIELD NOTES

Chimney Swift Nest In A Hollow Tree Stump: It is generally "known" that before chimneys were constructed for their convenience, Chimney Swifts used hollow trees for their nest sites. Actual records in the literature of recent use of such sites are surprisingly few.

During the summers of 1961, 1962, and 1963 I observed an incubating Chimney Swift in such a location in the Adirondacks. A few rods north of Sargent Pond in Hamilton County is the shell of an ancient white pine. At a point sixty feet high the top has been broken off leaving a perfect "chimney". The tree itself is fully three feet in diameter at breast height. By camera range-finder, the nest was measured to be thirty feet above the ground.



Comparison of the accompanying picture with one taken a year earlier, in 1962, shows the nest to be in identically the same place. That picture, taken with a shorter lens-lacks detail to determine whether the '63 nest was the same nest or a replacement.

In the vicinity there are several other similar large pine trunks which are open at the top. These are no doubt used by the other swifts that are seen in the area, but the absence of good peek holes at the base of these trees has prevented confirmation. These large pines were unquestionably over-mature, or even dead, when the area was logged for pine almost a century ago. Paul M. Kelsey, Senior Wildlife Biologist, N. Y. S. Conservation Dept.

On the Reluctance of Bonaparte's Gulls to Fly under Objects: Gunter (Auk, 73:131-132, 1956) in a general note discusses some observations which suggest that "gulls may have some mental occlusion which prevents them from seeing through or beyond overhead structures even though there are no physical obstructions to a clear view."

A flock of Laughing Gulls (*Larus atricilla*) following his boat "acted as if they could not see the boat at all and, to all intents and purposes, as if it had vanished into a solid wall," when the boat passed under the Copano Causeway between Aransas Pass and Port Aransas, Texas.

In view of Gunter's observations the following may be of interest. In the New York City region Bonaparte's Gulls (*L. philadelphia*) are extremely uncommon away from the immediate coast. During 1959-60, however, this species suddenly appeared on the Hudson River, as far north as "the city line," in considerable numbers. For the succeeding three winters numbers of Bonaparte's Gulls could be found in this area, but not in such concentrations as during 1959-60. By 1963-64 numbers diminished greatly and only a handful of these birds were in evidence.

At all times the greatest concentration of birds was in the vicinity of the George Washington Bridge (5,000 + on December 13, 1959 is a conservative estimate) which connects 178th Street, New York City with Fort Lee, New Jersey. The bridge's main span is 3,500 feet long (which equals the width of the river at this point). Supporting this span are two steel towers (one on each bank of the river). During the four winters, 1959-63, many flocks of Bonaparte's Gulls were seen crossing over the bridge, frequently at a height exceeding that of the supporting towers (which are 593 feet above the river). Minimum clearance over the bridge is 277 feet. On approaching the main span and its supporting cables, a flock of gulls would rise to sufficient altitude to clear the structure, then descend, once having reached the other side.

Not once was even a single gull seen to cross under the bridge, even though there is ample clearance (248 feet) and a clear view of the other side.

Peter W. Post, 575 West 183rd Street, New York, 10033

Boreal Owl in Monroe County: On the morning of February 22, 1964 I was birding the pines in the west end of Hamlin State Park with two of my companions, looking for owls and winter finches. This is an area of planted white pine trees about 30 feet tall that has in the past decade been a winter roosting place for Long-eared Owls and various other birds of prey. While working the south edge of the tract, I glimpsed a bird disappearing into the pines. Expecting a Long-eared Owl, I proceeded after the bird only to discover an owl of Screech Owl size sitting on an exposed branch about 15 feet off the ground in a small clearing. The size of the bird, its lack of ear tufts and the white spots on its forehead convinced me I was looking at a Boreal Owl (*Aegolius funereus richardsoni*). I watched the bird about three minutes until it took flight and disappeared into the nearby pines.

After returning to get my companions Tom Tetlow and Al Maley, we returned to search for the owl and managed after some searching to locate the bird concealed about 25 feet up in a grapevine-covered pine just outside the clearing. Gentle persuasion failed to dislodge the owl from its perch and we found it necessary to pull violently on the grapevines to get the bird to fly to a more exposed perch about 20 feet away. There we were able to confirm the identification, noting the black rimmed facial mask, the square head shape, large white spots on the back and a light horn colored (not yellow) bill.

As we were leaving the area we met Dick O'Hara and Howard Miller so we returned and located the bird for them.

The following Saturday, Feb. 29, the owl was located in the same vine-covered tree and was seen by many people — Mr. and Mrs. Leon Atkinson, Al Starling, Walt Listman, Bob McKinney, Allen Kemnitzer and Steve Taylor.

This time the bird, which kept pretty much to the upper branches, was photographed from about five feet away from an adjacent tree.

The next day a number of people searched for the owl without success and it was not reported subsequently.

As far as I can determine there is no previous record of the Boreal Owl for Monroe County and only a few in the state outside the Adirondacks as summerized by M. Rusk (*Kingbird* XII No 1 p. 25).

John Foster, 14 Utica Place, Rochester.

On Albino Swallows: In over 60 years of bird observations on Long Island the writer has recorded only five albino swallows, representing two species.

On June 20, 1928, a pure white Bank Swallow (*Riparia riparia*) was found in East Marion standing by the side of a highway with other Bank Swallows. The bird was in feeble condition; perhaps it had been persecuted by other birds. It soon succumbed and was preserved as a study skin. The bird, an immature female, had reached the flying stage and was a mile from the nearest nesting colony.

On July 9, 1935, another white Bank Swallow was seen all of one day flying in a loose flock of the same species in Orient. Its association with the other swallows during the period of observation appeared perfectly normal.

The other three white individuals recorded were Tree Swallows (*Iridoprocne bicolor*) observed one at a time in different years flying over a wide marsh in a mass flight of Tree Swallows during fall migrations. These, apparently pure white swallows, were strikingly prominent as they darted among the other swallows. There was no indication noticed that the white birds were molested by the other swallows.

Locally the nests of Barn Swallows (*Hirundo rustica*) are invariably lined with white feathers. It is plausible that Barn Swallows should have no objections to albino fledglings among white feathers that they are partial to, especially young they have been feeding since they were hatched.

The ducking in flight of adult Barn Swallows with beseeching notes is a common habit on Long Island when humans, horses, dogs or cats are near newly flying young.

Among the numerous other local albino records, was a pure white male Song Sparrow (*Melospiza melodia*) that mated with a normal female and brought up five typically plumaged young to maturity in the border of a salt marsh in Orient, proving that full albinos do mate and nest occasionally.

Roy Latham, Orient, Long Island
Ed. Note: In an analysis of 3,134 cases of albinism recorded in Britain (Sage, Brit. Birds 56:409, 1963) found that swallows comprise 7% of the records. In his results, which omit mallard and pheasant because of the influence of artificial conditions, the commonest families in which albinism was recorded were thrushes (29%), crows (11%), and swallows, starlings and sparrows (7% each).

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE WINTER SEASON DECEMBER 1 — MARCH 31

DAVID B. PEAKALL

For the state as a whole the crossbill invasion was the most spectacular in years, perhaps of the century; although in western areas of the state the numbers may not have been as large as the 1960/61 invasion. Much of the material on this invasion has already been given in the fall issue. Peak numbers were reached by late November or early December. It appears that the increasing predominance of Red Crossbills towards the end of the period was due largely to a decrease of White-winged. At the end of the

period only Red Crossbills remained in most areas. The possibility of nesting, outside normal areas, after any invasion of this size should be borne in mind.

There were moderate flights of other northern finches and in many areas it was possible to see all the normally occurring species readily. Goldfinches were reported as more numerous than usual in many areas. A table giving a rough idea of the abundance of northern finches during the winters of the last decade is given below.

	54- 55	55- 56	56- 57	57- 58	58- 59	59- 60	60- 61	61- 62	62- 63	63- 64
Evening Grosbeak	2	3		2	2	2	1	2	2	2
Purple Finch		1		1	2				3	1
Pine Grosbeak	3			1				3		1
Redpoll	1	2		2		3		1		1
Siskin		1			1	1	2		2	2
Red Crossbill	1						3			3
White-wgd Crossbill	1						2			3

In this table, following the terminology of James (Audubon Field Notes 12:256) 1, denotes a slight flight; 2, a fair flight and 3, a large flight. These ratings have been assessed by reading the regional reports and the summary. On occasions there is a considerable difference from region to region and the final figure is an average. Nor does such a table reflect the changes that occur during a winter. For instance the last two flights of Purple Finches have been late in the winter; perhaps this reflects the greater variety of food consumed by this species (Martin, Zim and Nelson, American Wildlife and Plants). No obvious cyclic pattern stands out, the conditions of the boreal forest regions are apparently too complex for a simple cycle to occur. The cyclic pattern is fitted most closely by the tundra-living Snowy Owl. If this holds true this time we should see an invasion by this species next winter.

The birds of prey — hawks, owls and shrikes — were all generally scarce. The exception was good numbers of Rough-legs in the lower Hudson valley and on Long Island.

Following the invasion last fall unprecedented numbers of Dickcissels were reported during the winter. Some twenty-five individuals were noted in six regions. On Long Island there were eight sightings compared to only three or four previous winter records.

As usual a few individuals of species that normally winter well to the south wintered or attempted to do so. Most of these were recorded at feeders, the increasing amount of this habitat in recent years has made it necessary to reassess the rarity of wintering individuals of many species.

In the field of rarities Long Island had its usual lead. The most outstanding records were Ivory Gull, Bullock's Oriole and Varied Thrush. Upstate a Lesser Black-backed Gull was recorded near Ithaca (second state record away from Long Island) and a White-fronted Goose at Rochester.

The warm spell in early March gave a push to migration and large numbers of geese and icterids occurred in many areas at this time.

Upstate Medical Center, 766 Irving Avenue, Syracuse

REGION 1 — NIAGARA FRONTIER

RICHARD C. ROSCHE

December was the coldest and most stormy month of the winter. Snow fell on all but two days and temperatures were 3.8 degrees below the normal at Buffalo. After an eight-inch snowfall within five hours on New Year's Day, January was rather mild. It averaged 10.4 degrees warmer than January 1963. February, likewise, was comparatively mild and open. It was the third driest February on local record — 1963 being second and 1877 first. March had its ups and downs — with wind, snow and thunderstorms. The 7.8-inch snowfall on the 10th was one of the heaviest of the winter. Temperatures for the four-month period were about normal; total precipitation almost three inches below normal.

The widespread occurrence of grosbeaks, crossbills, siskins and goldfinches at feeding stations throughout the region, was perhaps, the outstanding feature of an otherwise rather routine winter season. That the natural food supply for these erratic visitors was exceptionally low, is evident. Half-hardy birds, especially icterids and other fringillids, were frequently reported. Many of these, too, regularly visited feeding stations as noted below. Hawks and owls were generally scarce.

Beginning with this report, the area formerly referred to as the "Wolcottsville Sinks" in Niagara and Genesee Counties, will be called "Iroquois National Wildlife Refuge" in order to conform to its official designation by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Abbreviations used below are as follows: All. — Allegany; BAS — Buffalo Audubon Society Christmas Count; Catt. — Cattaraugus; Chaut. — Chautauqua; Co. — County; DCC — Dunkirk Christmas Count; imm. — immature; INWR — Iroquois National Wildlife Refuge; JCC — Jamestown Audubon Society Christmas Count; L. — Lake; max. — maximum; Nia. — Niagara; OCC — Olean Christmas Count; OOGMA — Oak Orchard Game Management Area; R. — River; SCC — Scio Christmas Count.

Contributors: RFA — Robert F. Andrie; CA — Mrs. Charles Avery; HRA — Dr. and Mrs. Harold H. Axtell; HHA — Harold H. Axtell; AMB — Mrs. John E. Bacon; CMB — Clarence M. Beal; TLB — Thomas L. Bourne; RB — Richard Brownstein; GB — George Buckland; LDB — Mr. and Mrs. Lou L. Burton; RDC — Robert D. Coggeshall; EC — Mrs. Elek Csont; FD — Mrs. Fred Danner; AD — Adrian Dorst; RF — Richard Freitag; EH — Mrs. Ethel Hartloff; NH — Normal Haultain; WHK — Mr. and Mrs. Walter Klabunde; AWM — Mr. and Mrs. Willard McKale; WM — William Mealy; RM — Richard Miga; HDM — Harold D. Mitchell; TN — Mrs. Thomas Nelson; RO — Ruth Olson; EP — Mrs. Russell Pillsbury; OP — Mrs. Ory Pixley; RWR — Mrs. R. William Rochester; RCR — Richard C. Rosche; HDS — Mrs. Harry D. Schafer; ELS — Edward L. Seeber; EAU — Mr. and Mrs. Edward C. Ulrich; GGW — Gertrude G. Webster.

Loons — Ducks: Pied-billed Grebe: one-two apparently wintered on open stretches of the Genesee R. between Belmont and Wellsville (LDB et al); single birds, Dec 29 at Olean (OCC) and several dates at Dunkirk Harbor (RM et al) probably represent late stragglers or wintering individuals. Double-crested Cormorant: one, Dec 1, Dunkirk Harbor (RM); one, Dec. 22 (HRA et al) and Dec 31 (NH), Upper Nia. R. Great Blue Heron: all reports, save one, of wintering birds came from southern tier areas. While very few wintered, this is a noticeable change from the past pattern of winter distribution, when most individuals reported occurred in the Nia. R. region. Black-crowned Night Heron: no reports. American Bittern: one, Mar 30, Watt's Falls, Jamestown (WM et al) — early migrant. Whistling Swan: 51, Dec 8 (EP) and 40, Dec 11 (CMB), Chaut. L. — max. fall concentration; one, Jan 23-Feb 2, Dunkirk Harbor (RM et al); Mar 7 — first migrants; about normal numbers present Mar 14-31; poor spring flight compared with 1963. Canada Goose: two, Dec 29, Olean (OCC); 32, Jan 7, flying north over

Belmont, All. Co. (LDB); three, Feb 12, York Corners, All. Co. (LDB) — none of these mid-winter birds were known to remain in areas where they were observed; Mar 4 — first migrants; 30,000, Mar 21-22, OOGMA-INWR area (RM et al) — max. concentration. Snow Goose: six-eight, Mar 28-31, INWR (AWM et al) — max. count. Blue Goose: 36-37, Mar 28-29, INWR (AWM et al) — max. count; an unusual number for this area; about 25% of these birds possessed white breasts and other characters often said to indicate the possibility of their being hybrids with one form of the Snow Goose. Gadwall: two, Mar 7, Cuba Lake (RCR); one, Mar 8-12, Dunkirk Harbor (RM et al); apparently no wintering birds on Nia. R. Pintail: good flight Mar 7-8 with interesting counts on flooded flats in the southern tier — 60, Mar 7, Jamestown (WM) and 32, Mar 8, near Belfast (LDB). Green-winged Teal: one female wintered in Forest Lawn Cemetery, Buffalo; it was observed throughout the period by many observers. Shoveler: one, Mar 13, Riverside Sanctuary, Kiantone (WM) — early. Wood Duck: one-three, Dec 1-Feb 18, Forest Lawn Cemetery, Buffalo — many observers studied these wintering birds, at least one of which was nearly always present; two, Dec 29, Jamestown (JCC). Ring-necked Duck: more than the normal number of wintering birds on the Nia. R. **Barrow's Goldeneye**: one adult male, Jan 12, Nia. R. opposite Buffalo (AD et al). King Eider: five, Dec 22, Nia. R. opposite Buffalo (HDM et al) — max. count. Ruddy Duck: 60, Dec 11, Chaut. L. (CMB) — max. fall concentration; one, Dec 22, Upper Nia. R. (RFA et al); 24, Mar 31, Chaut. L. Outlet (WM) — max. spring concentration.

Hawks — Owls: There were no noteworthy hawk flights along the south shore of L. Erie reported during March this year. Sharp-shinned Hawk: one wintered near Belmont and was observed often (LDB et al); other winter reports of single birds — Jan 16, Elma (RDC), Jan 22, Springbrook (HDS), Feb 9, Fredonia (RM). Red-shouldered Hawk: no winter reports for the first time since prior to winter 1959-60. Rough-legged Hawk: generally scarce throughout the period with only scattered reports of mostly single birds. Bald Eagle: one adult, Jan 6, over Jamestown (RO); one-two imm., Jan 19-Mar 22, Nia. R. at BISP and Navy Island (many observers); one imm., Mar 22, INWR (RCR et al). Peregrine Falcon: one, Mar 26, Hamburg (TLB). Killdeer: one, Dec 27, Dunkirk (CMB et al); Mar 2 — first migrant, Eden (TLB). American Woodcock: one, Mar 7, Friendship, All. Co. (RCR) — the only definite indication of an exceptionally early movement into the southern tier counties according to old-time hunters and sportsman's columns. Common Snipe: one, Dec 29, Jamestown (JCC). **Purple Sandpiper**: two, Dec. 27, Dunkirk Harbor (CMB et al); two were last reported here Jan 1 (RM) and one remained at a sewer outlet through the end of the report period (RM et al). Glaucous Gull: nine, Jan 23, Lower Nia. R. (ELS) — max. count. Iceland Gull (*L.g. glaucoides*): five, Dec 29, Lower Nia. R. (EAU et al) — max. count. Iceland Gull (*L.g. kumlieni*): two, Dec 29, Lower Nia. R. (EAU et al) — max. count. Great Black-backed Gull: greatest concentrations all winter at Dunkirk Harbor — 100, Dec 8 — max. count. Barn Owl: two, Jan 1, Hamburg (EH) — only report. Snowy Owl: about four separate individuals were known to have spent all or most of the winter in the region, one near the Nia. R. in the Tonawanda area, one around the harbor in South Buffalo, one at the top of a ridge in the Town of Colden, Erie Co. and another in the Town of Bolivar, All. Co. Long-eared Owl: one, Mar 19, Hamburg (TLB) — only report. Short-eared Owl: 24, Feb 18, Grand Island (GGW et al) — max. count; a few additional records elsewhere in the region. Saw-whet Owl: one, Dec 14, Hamburg (TLB) — only report.

Goatsuckers — Starling: Red-bellied Woodpecker: a marked winter dispersal into areas where this bird usually does not occur; one, Dec 2-Jan 24, Springbrook feeder (FD, HDS et al); one, Jan 1, Hamburg feeder (CA et al); one, Jan 1, Dunkirk (DCC). In addition, two visited a feeder almost daily, Dec 3-Feb 29 at Batavia (GB) — a usual occurrence in that area for years. Red-headed Woodpecker: three, Dec 22, south end Grand Island (RF).

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: one, Dec 22, Forest Lawn Cemetery, Buffalo (AWM et al). Tree Swallow: one, Mar 21, INWR (RM et al) — early. Purple Martin: one, Mar 21, Jamestown (CMB) — early. Common Crow: 600, Feb 16, Springbrook (FD) — another indication of the nearby roosting area that is yet to be definitely located. Boreal Chickadee: one, Mar 8, Derby feeder (RCR et al) — reportedly present here for at least a month previous. Tufted Titmouse: reported in normal numbers from usual localities. Red-breasted Nuthatch: moderately reported from scattered localities, but not common this winter. Carolina Wren: one, Feb 1, Wilson (RB). Mockingbird: one, Jan 1, Hamburg (AMB); one, Jan 14, Batavia (OP et al). Brown Thrasher: one, Dec 15, Falconer (CMB); two, Dec 22, Grand Island (EAU); one, Feb 22, Angola (TLB). Eastern Bluebird: two, Feb 25, Angola (TLB) — early; a fair late Mar flight — 38, Mar 25, Wellsville area (LDB) — max count. Ruby-crowned Kinglet: one, Dec 22, Tonawanda (GGW et al). Water Pipit: four and two, Mar 14 and 17, Scio, All. Co. (LDB) — early. Northern Shrike: scarce all winter throughout region. Starling: 1500, Mar 8 and 22, Jamestown Roost (CMB).

Vireos — Warblers: Myrtle Warbler: one, Dec 8, Belmont (LDB); two, Jan 1, Hamburg-East Aurora area (BAS); one, Jan 5, East Aurora (TN); one, Jan 19, Point Breeze, Orleans Co. (WHK); no Feb or Mar reports.

Blackbirds — Sparrows: Wintering icterids were much in evidence, many of them regularly visiting feeding stations. The first widespread movement of icterids occurred Mar 7. At the Jamestown Roost where martins and other birds usually congregate in large numbers in the fall, the following estimates of icterids were made (CMB) — Mar 8; Red-winged Blackbird — 1250, Common Grackle — 50; Mar 22: Red-winged Blackbird — 5000, Common Grackle — 1000, Brown-headed Cowbird — 1000. **Baltimore Oriole:** one female, Dec 1-19, Hamburg (TLB et al) — daily visited a number of feeding stations; died Dec 19; specimen now in Buffalo Museum of Science. **Rusty Blackbird:** one, Dec 22-Jan 22 and two, Jan 23-24, Belmont feeder (LDB); one, Dec 29, Jamestown (JCC). **Dickcissel:** one adult male, Feb 26-Mar 31, Hamburg feeder (TLB et al). **Evening Grosbeak:** very common throughout region. A note by Harold H. Axtell (*Prothonotary*, 30:1) is of interest, "During previous Evening Grosbeak invasions there have been few or no reports of these birds visiting feeding stations in the Niagara Frontier area north of an east-west line through downtown Buffalo, although they regularly come to dozens of feeders south of this line. In the last previous invasion, two years ago, the Museum of Science received information for the first time that these grosbeaks were visiting feeders in about six of these more northern localities. Since the beginning of the current invasion, however, the Museum has already had word of between 12 and 15 such northern localities . . ." (as of early Feb. Ed.). **Purple Finch:** generally scarce until a mild influx occurred in late Feb and Mar. **Pine Grosbeak:** four, Mar 22, Alma, All. Co. (LDB) — only report. **Common Redpoll:** poor flight with a few reported each month; 150, Jan 28, Hamburg (RWR et al) — max. count; 43, Mar 3, migrating over Evans, Erie Co. (RB) — the usual very early Mar movement occurred but to a much lesser extent than in many years. **Pine Siskin:** widespread in generally small numbers throughout the period; most conspicuous in Feb and Mar; a regular visitor to many feeding stations. **American Goldfinch:** unusually common all winter, especially in hill areas south of Buffalo; many regularly visiting feeding stations. **Crossbills:** Prior to Jan the White-winged appeared to be more common than the Red; however, the latter was dominant during the last three months of the period. For the first time in the ornithological history of the region (HHA), numbers of crossbills, especially the Red, regularly visited feeding stations. In fact, the majority of reports came from feeders. **Rufous-sided Towhee:** more reported than during the average winter until late Jan; then none reported until Mar when early migrants began to appear. **Oregon Junco:** one adult male, Dec 10-Mar 31, Belmont feeder (LDB et al). **Chipping Sparrow:** one imm., Dec 11-Jan 10, Hamburg feeder (RFA). **Field Sparrow:** one, Jan 29-30, Feb 7-22 and 27, Hamburg feeder (TLB et al). **White-crowned Sparrow:** a number occurred regularly, mostly at feeders, at Hamburg and Belmont

and on the L. Ontario Plain at Newfane, Wilson and Lewiston. White-throated Sparrows: many reports mostly at feeding stations. Fox Sparrow: one-two, Dec 14-Jan 1, Hamburg feeder (EC et al); one, Dec 15-18, Dunkirk (RM); one, Dec 28, Friendship, All. Co. (SCC); one, Dec 29, Jamestown (JAS); two, Jan 1, Hamburg-East Aurora area (BAS); no reports later than this until migrants appeared; 35, Mar 19, Riverside Sanctuary, Kiantone and 21, Mar 31, Jamestown (WM) — noteworthy counts. Snow Bunting: fewer reports than in recent winters.

48 Dartmouth Avenue, Buffalo 14215

REGION 2 — GENESEE

HOWARD S. MILLER

The first month of the period was the third coldest December in Rochester weather bureau records. However, January was comparatively mild with temperatures well above the average. The last two months of the period were nearly normal, with February being slightly below and March slightly above average. The first month of the period produced the second heaviest December snowfall of the present century. The formidable snow cover of late December had dwindled to almost nothing a month later. Snowfall for January and March was about normal, with light snowfall marking February. Snowfall for the winter was about ten inches above normal. However, precipitation for the period was about $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches below normal due to the low water content of much of the snowfall. The level of Lake Ontario and all connecting bays and ponds was very low at the end of the period.

In spite of the rugged weather conditions of December, the number of wintering species seemed at least average. The Christmas census held on December 22 resulted in an all time high count since this census was first started locally. The spring migration started rather early with heavy flights of Canada Geese, Robins and the various blackbirds reported as early as the first weekend in March. By the middle of the month, Whistling Swans, and most of the "puddle" ducks were present. A good early hawk flight developed on March 24. Except for the early part of the month, the migration of land birds seemed to lag, and by the end of the period was definitely behind average.

The past winter produced more noteworthy records than usual. Among the outstanding birds reported were White-fronted Goose, European Widgeon, Common Eider, King Eider, Red Phalarope, Boreal Owl, Black-backed Three-toed Woodpecker, Northern Three-toed Woodpecker, Boreal Chickadee and Hoary Redpoll.

Names of regularly reporting observers: WC — William Carlson; DC — Dwight Chamberlain; GD — (Mrs.) Gertrude Davis; RD — Robert Dobson; JD — James Doherty; MF — (Miss) Margaret Foley; JF — John Foster; RG — Richard Garnham; WH — William Hartranft; BK — (Mrs.) Beatrice Kemnitzer; AEK — Allen E. Kemnitzer; JK — Mr. and Mrs. John Kennedy; WCL — Walter C. Listman; WL — Warren Lloyd; AM — Alfred Maley; RM — Robert McKinney; JM — Joseph McNett; TM — (Mrs.) Thelma McNett; HSM — Howard S. Miller; DN — Donald Nelson; RTO — Richard T. O'Hara; NR — Nestor Ross; FS — Frank Schmanke; AAS — Alfred A. Starling; ES — (Mrs.) Ester Stiles; ST — Stephen Taylor; FT — Frank Templeton; RT — Richard Thompson; TET — Thomas E. Tetlow; RW — Robert White; CY — C. Young; PZ — Peter Zachmann.

Names of places used regularly in the text: CL — Conesus Lake; DEP — Durand-Eastman Park; ES — East Spit; GR — Genesee River; HSP — Hamlin State Park; IB — Irondequoit Bay; L — Lakeshore; M — Manitou;

OB — Oklahoma Beach; P — Parma; PB — Point Breeze; RS — Russell Station; SP — Sodus Point; W — Webster; WL — West Lakeshore; WS — West Spit; WW — West Webster.

Loons — Ducks: Two Red-throated Loons were along the WL Dec 2 (AEK). No other loons nor Red-necked Grebes were reported to the end of the period. A Double-crested Cormorant at SP Dec 8 (ES) was the only report. Five Great Blue Herons were along the GR gorge in Rochester Dec 22 (Christmas Census) and one in the same place until at least Jan 25 (WCL). The first Whistling Swan was at BB March 7 (JF et al), and the peak count was 140 at Groveland March 28 (AM). Two Canada Geese were at SP Jan. 19 (DS, ES). Heavy flights were reported as early as March 7 (several); the species appeared more common than usual. A White-fronted Goose was carefully observed at PB March 28 (RB, AEK & RM). All three are experienced observers and they observed the bird under very favorable conditions. This may be the first acceptable record for our area. There are two previous records but one may refer to an escaped bird and the writer has been unable to trace the other. A few Snow and Blue Geese were reported but in much smaller numbers than were known to be present at Montezuma and in the Oak Orchard area. Two Gadwall were near Seneca Park Dec 22 (TET) and the first two spring migrants were at BB March 7 (WCL et al); this species was more generally reported locally than usual. Twenty Pintail were at BB March 7 (AM et al). Four Green-winged Teal were at the same place March 8 (WCL). A very early Blue-winged Teal was at M the same day (WCL). An adult male European Widgeon was at Groveland from March 28-31 (JF et al). An American Widgeon was at DEP Jan 18 (JF) and three were at BB March 7 (JF et al). Shovelers, like Gadwalls, were generally distributed, but in larger numbers.

A male Wood Duck wintered with domestic ducks at the "duck pond" at the U. of R. (Louise Zeitler et al). An estimated 100 Ring-necked Ducks at L Mar 28 (WCL) was the peak count for this increasingly common duck. Sixty-two hundred Old-squaws along the L Jan 19 (Duck census) is a high count. A female Common Eider was carefully studied at M March 22 (GOS hike). A female King Eider was on the GR Dec 22 (HSM & RTO); Another the same day on IB (WL et al). An immature male was at M Jan 11-12 (WC et al). The same or another bird in the same plumage was at HSP Jan 19 (RT et al). A female was at Nine Mile Point March 1 (AEK) and one was reported from Sandy Creek March 8 by the same observer. Two Ruddy Ducks wintered on the GR (AAS et al). Six Hooded Mergansers were on IB Dec 22 (WL et al) and 38 were on Sodus Bay March 30 (AEK).

Hawks — Owls: An immature Goshawk was at Nine Mile Point March 14 (AEK & WL) and two were at BB March 24 (AM). A few Red-tailed Hawks were migrating at BB & DEP March 7 (WC et al). Hundreds of both this species and Red-shouldered Hawks were reported moving along the L March 24 RD & FS). An immature Broad-winged Hawk at Flynn Road Dec 22 (WCL) is the area's first winter record for this species. It was not observed subsequently. Nine Rough-legged Hawks were at Kent Jan. 19 (WCL). Few were reported elsewhere. An adult Band Eagle was at Canandaigua Lake Feb 14 (Mrs. Smith) and an adult was at Charlotte March 24 (FS).

Six Killdeer along the WL March 7 (JF et al) was the first spring report. A Common Snipe was at Fishers Feb 22 C. Young). The only record of the Purple Sandpiper for the year was a single bird on the WS Dec 3 (WCL), and the last Dunlin and Sanderling for the year were seen at the same place and time (WCL). Two Red Phalaropes were at the ES Dec 8 (WCL); one on IB Dec 15 (AEK, WL & Lance Sunderlain); one at the WS Dec 22 (WCL) was the last record.

A Glaucous Gull was at Summerville Dec 22 (JF et al), and another was at IB the same day (RG, WL & RW). Occasional single birds of both this species and the Iceland Gull were reported. Four hundred Bonaparte's Gulls were on IB Dec 15 (AEK & WL). This is late for such a large number.

Eight were still present in the same place Jan 26 (AM). Three adult Little Gulls were at Russell Station Jan. 5 (AEK) and an immature was at the same place two days later (DN).

Mourning Doves wintered generally in some numbers, with a high count of 65 at the McNett feeder in WW Feb 23. A Snowy Owl was at the ES Jan 18-19 (AAS et al), and the same or another bird was there March 28 (ST et al). One was seen between Newark and Phelps Jan 17-20 (Mr. & Mrs. Fairbanks). A Long-eared Owl was in DEP Feb 29 (AM, TET) and one was in the "owl woods" near BB March 7-14 (FS et al). A Boreal Owl was at HSP from Feb 22-29 (JF et al) See field note section. A Saw-whet Owl was in the "owl woods" March 7 (JF et al) and one was near Round Pond March 28 (BB et al).

Goatsuckers — Shrikes: A Yellow-bellied Sapsucker was in DEP Dec 22 (MF & ES) and probably the same bird was seen nearby Feb 22 (JK et al). One was in Palmyra Jan. 1-Feb 29 (WH). A Black-backed Three-toed Woodpecker was seen in the village of Sodus Feb. 22 (AEK & WCL). A female Northern Three-toed Woodpecker was first seen near DEP Dec 22 (JF). The area was carefully watched, and the bird was seen on numerous occasions until at least March 14 (FS). A Tree Swallow was at M March 8 (WCL). This is the area's earliest record by three days of this species. Comparatively few were present by the end of the month. The winter Common Crow roost which moved to Genesee Valley Park from Mt. Hope Cemetery for a while during midwinter contained 17,481 birds Dec 22 (DC, FS). A Boreal Chickadee was in HSP Jan. 11 (AM). At least three and possibly as many as five birds were present during late Feb (ST et al), and the last bird reported was on March 8 (JD, FS).

A Tufted Titmouse spent most of the winter at Palmyra (WH), two were at Newark Dec 20 (David B. Peakall) and one was at HSP Feb 22 (RTO). These are new stations as far as we know. The Carolina Wren was unreported. A Mockingbird was in Gates Jan 20 (Mrs. Kimpton) and one was at Holland's Cove Feb 17 (AEK). A Catbird spent the early part of the winter around a feeder in Brighton (Mrs. King, ST) but disappeared during January. A flock of about 20 Robins wintered at DEP and another flock of about 15 wintered at HSP where they fed heavily on wild grapes. A Hermit Thrush was in DEP Dec 22 (JF) and another was in P the same day (WCL). Four Eastern Bluebirds were near Conesus Lake Dec 29 (WCL et al). One was at BB March 8 (WCL) and a few were reported along the L during the rest of the month. Three Bohemian Waxwings were in DEP Jan 11 (WC et al), these were probably the same three birds that have been in the area very irregularly since Nov 17. Northern Shrikes were generally scarce but an occasional single bird was reported. A Loggerhead Shrike was seen near Buck Pond Mar 28 (AAS et al).

Vireos — Sparrows: A small flock of Myrtle Warblers wintered at Rush (JH). These birds have wintered here before and, while they feed somewhat on seeds and feeder food, their principal feed appears to be house flies which appear in all but the coldest weather.

A fabulous count of 3,000 Eastern Meadowlarks was made at BB March 15 (RD). They were moving in a southeasterly direction, crossing the parkway between the two spits. A flock of about 40 Red-winged Blackbirds wintered in the Ellison Park-Dugway area (ST). Four hundred were migrating at BB March 7 (TET et al), and 6,000 were at the same place March 15 (RD). A flock of 14 Rusty Blackbirds wintered in the Penfield area (GD) and six Common Grackles wintered in the Dugway area (ST). Small numbers of Brown-headed Cowbirds wintered and 2,000 were at BB March 15 (RD). All the northern finches were reported during the period but none were in overwhelming abundance. Evening Grosbeaks appeared in fair numbers with a high count of 50 at the McNett feeder in WW. Purple Finches were almost completely absent, only one bird being reported. Twenty-one Pine Grosbeaks at HSP Feb 22 (AM et al) was the only worthwhile number reported. A Hoary Redpoll was seen in direct comparison with Common

Redpolls in P March 14 (WCL). One hundred Common Redpolls in W March 14 (RD) was the peak count. Pine Siskins appeared generally in small to medium sized flocks. Strangely, the American Goldfinch was the commonest of this group; large flocks were generally reported with a maximum of 4,000 at Retsof Feb 9 (WCL). Peak counts of Red and White-winged Crossbills were eight of the former at DEP Jan 19 (FT) and 25 of the latter in the same place the same day (NR).

A Rufous-sided Towhee spent most of the winter at the Golan feeder in Irondequoit, and another appeared irregularly at the Listman feeder in Mani-tou. A Savannah Sparrow was at Retsof Jan 12 (WCL). A Vesper Sparrow was near CL Dec 29 (WCL et al), and another bird was present at the Munson feeder in Penfield from Dec 29 to at least Mar 9. It was banded Jan 5. Another was near HSP Jan 11 (JF). An Oregon Junco was at Mendon Ponds Jan 1 (FS), one was at the McNett feeder in WW Jan 5, one was at the Kemnitzer feeder in W from Feb 18-24. The same or another bird appeared at the same feeder March 13 and was present to the end of the period. One spent most of the winter at the Kennedy feeder near DEP (JK, HSM & RTO). A Field Sparrow was at IB Dec 22 (FT). About 15 White-crowned Sparrows wintered at the Culver feeder near Scottsville, and a few other scattered birds were reported from other areas. Small numbers of scattered White-throated Sparrows were reported. The year's first Fox Sparrow was at a feeder in Penfield March 12 (GD) and some had appeared by the end of the month. The peak count of Lapland Longspurs was 30 along the WL Jan 19 (WCL), and the maximum count of Snow Buntings was an estimated 5,000 birds in the same general area the same day (WCL).

54 Luella Street, Rochester, New York 14609

REGION 3 — FINGER LAKES

SALLY F. HOYT

Temperatures during the reporting period were fairly normal, with no extremes, decidedly in contrast with the winter of '62-'63. Cayuga Lake had more open water than for several years, and Montezuma opened early — partly on March 1, major break-up March 26. Snow covered the ground most of the period, but at no time was the snow cover more than a foot, and wild food was in fairly good abundance, contrary to fears after last year's drought. Many early migrants arrived on March 7, with south winds and high temperatures.

Rough-legged Hawks, Short-eared and Snowy Owls and Shrikes were almost missing, but it was a superb year for winter finches. Evening Grosbeaks were abundant, as were Pine Siskins, Purple Finches, and most particularly Goldfinches and Crossbills. Both species of crossbills were present, but White-wings were more abundant. One flock of over 200 was reported to me. They fed mostly on hemlock cones, but also on pine and spruce. By early March, natural food was exhausted, and they came to feeders for sunflower seeds and were extremely tame. Goldfinches are rarely a feeding-station bird around Ithaca, but this year they were abundant at feeders and the phone rang constantly with descriptions of these tiny birds.

Tree Sparrows were more abundant than in the last few years. There were few Redpolls, Pine Grosbeaks, or Snow Buntings and almost no Longspurs.

Four or five reports of Goshawks made it a record year for this species. One adult and one immature made repeated visits to the Sapsucker Woods Sanctuary, and at one time two adults were seen.

The most unusual bird for the period was a **Lesser Black-backed Gull**, discovered on March 2, by Mrs. Malcolm McIlroy at a dump a few miles northwest of Ithaca. It was seen repeatedly in the next two weeks by several other competent observers, but there was no success in collecting or photographing it.

A female Barrow's Goldeneye turned up for the second year in the Shel-drake area of Cayuga Lake. It was present from early January to mid-March.

A probable Gyrfalcon was seen by Jayson Walker on February 23 on Powderly Road near Waterloo. Unfortunately all attempts to locate it again, or to have it seen by a second observer were unsuccessful so it must remain a question in our records.

Places mentioned: SWS — Sapsucker Woods Sanctuary; MFWR — Montezuma Federal Wildlife Refuge; Cay L — Cayuga Lake; Sen L — Seneca Lake; PCRD — Perry City Road Dump; Fish and Wildlife — F and W; n — north; s — south.

Observers: David G. Allen — DGA; Jack Brubaker — JB; Paul A. Buckley — PAB; Walter E. Benning — WEB; Harold Cox — HC; Lewis Cartee — LC; Lewis Cowardin — LCo; David Dunham — DD; Albert Fudge — AF; Benjamin Gebhart — BG; Frank Gutherie — FG; William Groesbeck — WG; Jack Holl — JH; Hope Johnson — HJ; Paul Kelsey — PK; Arthur Lane — AL; Carl Mrozek — CM; Dorothy McIlroy — DM; O. S. Pettingill, Jr. — OSP; Jean Propst — JP; Dan Rose — DR; Betty Strath — BS; Gustav A. Swanson — GAS; Julian Shepherd — JS; Mary Smith — MS; Walter R. Spofford — WRS; Jayson Walker — JW; John S. Weske — JSW; Ruth Williams — RW.

Loons — Ducks: Common Loons: almost none. Red-necked Grebes: none. Horned Grebes: 26, Jan 18, Cay L; 57, Jan 18, Sen L; 13, Jan 18, Keuka L. Pied-billed Grebe (rare winterer): one, Jan 18, Sen L; one, Jan 18, Keuka L. Great Blue Heron: one wintered, south end Cay L; first spring arrivals, March 20, MFWR and April 4, SWS. Mute Swan: one, March 7, Cay L (WEB). Whistling Swan: this species has been increasing in numbers in migration each year recently. 32, MFWR and N end Cay L, March 15 (WEB and others in next week). Up to 58, March 8-25, Keuka L, (FG); five, March 21, Chemung River, (MS). Canada Goose: came early (200 over Ithaca Feb 25, (DR)) and reached peak numbers early. There were 10,000 at the Refuge and north end of Cayuga on March 7, and a census at MFWR on March 21 produced 46,000. One count taken as flocks flew over Cornell campus on March 17: 10,000 in a half-hour. Snow Goose: 450 (record high count), Mar 26 MFWR. Blue Goose: 150 (peak) March 26, MFWR. Mallards: 550-600, all winter, SWS. Blacks: 100-150, SWS. Gadwall: two, March 7, MFWR (WEB), first arrivals. Pintail: one wintered in Seneca River at Waterloo (JW); two pairs (with F. and W. and also Conserv. Dept. bands — probably Howlands Island releases) wintered at SWS. 1,200 at MFWR, March 27. In migration, this species, usually rare at Elmira, were sighted in numbers, up to 30 in flooded cornfields. Green-winged Teal: arrived last week of March. American Widgeon, rare winterer: one, January 3, Canoga, (LCo); two, January 22, near Canoga, (JP). Wood Ducks: four wintered at SWS; first spring migrants, last week March. Redheads: numbers on Jan 18 census, almost double those of last year; peak, 1,300, March 7 (WEB). Ring-necked Duck: more than usual on ponds near Elmira end of March, with preponderance of males. Canvasbacks: still decreasing as wintering bird. Peak, 1,000 on Cay L, March 22 (WEB). Scaup: numbers in general the same as last few years.

Common Goldeneyes: slight increase this year over recent years. Still abundant March 21 (JSW). **Barrow's Goldeneye:** again, as in 1963, a female was found with Common Goldeneyes in the Shel-drake (Cay L) area, and was present from January 4 to mid-March. Buffleheads and Oldsquaws: usual numbers wintered, increase last week March. White-winged Scoter: only one record, Jan 3, Canoga, (LCo). Surf Scoter: one, March 1, Sen L, north end, (CM). No Scoters on Keuka L. Red-breasted Mergansers: no marked migration noted.

Hawks — Owls: Turkey Vulture: one (first) March 22, MFWR (JW); one, March 28, Keuka L, (FG). Goshawk: usually rare in Finger Lakes, three individual birds (2 ad, 1 imm) visited SWS regularly from late December

until end of March, though less frequently in March; two occasionally during same period, 15 miles nne of SWS (BG); one on Jan 12, near Sheldrake (PAB). No accipiters around Elmira. Sharp-shinned Hawk: one Feb 15, Varna, (WRS), two reports at Keuka (fide FG). Cooper's Hawk: one seen occasionally, SWS. Red-tailed Hawk: all observers said fewer this winter than in past years. Rough-legged Hawk: scarcest in many years. ~~Almost none reported except three at MFWR.~~ Bald Eagle: one, ad, March 15, MFWR (RW); one imm., east shore Cay L, March 21 (JSW). Marsh Hawk: one winter report. Peregrine Falcon: one, Jan 1, Van Duzer home, Horseheads. Sparrow Hawks: wintered near Keuka L in good numbers; 7 or 8 in 3 hour trip (FG).

Ruffed Grouse: good numbers around Keuka. Normal numbers elsewhere. No wintering Rail reports. Killdeer: one wintered at south end of Cay L. Woodcock: first, March 13, Ithaca, (HC); others reported during the next week. Common Snipe: one wintering bird at Clyde, in December and January (WEB). Glaucous Gull: one, March 17, s end Cay L, (DM); later two birds. Iceland Gull: (rare in Region) one, March 2, PCRD (DM). Great Black-backed Gulls: 17 (peak) Dec 22, s end Cay L, (DD); good numbers, both Cay L and Sen L, (JW); 2 records Keuka L, where usually not present (FG). Lesser Black-backed Gull: one, PCRD & Cay L March 2 through March 20 (DM, and other observers). First record for Central New York State. Herring Gulls: 2,500 (peak) March 7, MFWR (WEB). Bonaparte's Gull: one Dec 1 (late) Sen L (JB).

Mourning Doves: wintered in scattered flocks; largest numbers reported 30-50 at feeders in Freeville and 25-30 n of Trumansburg. Barn Owl: one only, March 8, n of Ithaca, (JH). Great Horned Owl: nest on Route 13 near Etna, again occupied mid-February. Snowy Owl: only one, Feb 1, s of Ithaca, (GAS).

Swifts — Shrikes: Yellow-shafed Flicker: more than usual reports of wintering birds; three or four at Keuka; one or two near Reading; three or four at Ithaca, including one regularly at feeders at SWS. Red-bellied Woodpecker: 4-6 wintered in Ithaca area alone; this species is on increase. Black-backed Three-toed Woodpecker: a pair wintered on Cornell campus, spending most time along Fall Creek in vicinity of Triphammer Bridge, first seen Jan 11 (JH). Phoebe: two wintered at Keuka (most unusual), one bird blind in one eye (FG); first spring arrivals: March 20, Odessa (BS); March 21, Ithaca (LC). Horned Larks: small numbers all winter, increase noted in mid-February. Most except residents left March 4, with melting of snow and temperature rise. Tree Swallows: 14 March 25, (first), East Varick, (WEB); after that, moved in slowly in small numbers. Blue Jays: maintaining fairly high numbers, but no marked increase this year.

Crows: While more were reported wintering at Hornell (WG) they were almost absent from Montezuma, where the big roost is no longer in existence; small numbers returning by mid-February. Red-breasted Nuthatch: wintered in unusual numbers — 8 or 9 at Keuka, for ex. At least a dozen at feeders in Ithaca area. Winter Wrens: practically absent. Mockingbird: two in Ithaca; one at Aurora (for fifth winter); one near Hector. Catbird: on Feb 1 at Bardeen farm, Burdett; one at several feeders on Slaterville Road, se of Ithaca in January and February (unusual). Robins: returned in early March; during snow of March 11, 30 were seen feeding on sumac on Snyder Hill, Ithaca. This is considered starvation food. Hermit Thrush: two wintered, one, SWS; one, Cayuga Heights, Ithaca. Bluebirds: Half a dozen reports the last week of March are encouraging, and two pairs were apparently beginning to nest (DGA, OSP). Ruby-crowned Kinglet: rare in winter, one, Jan 11-Feb 11 at Darling feeder, at Rock Stream, then found dead. Northern Shrike: one only, w side Cay L, mid-December and again in mid-January. Migrant Shrike (first): March 25, near Watkins Glen (BS).

Warblers — Sparrows: Myrtle Warblers: three or four wintered in Stewart Park, Ithaca, as has been the case in last few years. House Sparrow: some drop in numbers at feeders, widely noted. E. Meadowlark: small flocks

noted through December, then disappeared; one flock of 12, Big Flats, Jan 18 (AF); large numbers migrants, March 18, (BS). Grackles and Red-wings: arrived in numbers March 6-8. Brown-headed Cowbirds: after scarcity of fall, and almost no wintering birds, these returned in numbers March 11 and 12; in two weeks, almost 100 were trapped and banded in my yard as compared with 15-20 most years. Cardinals: as wide-spread as usual but in smaller numbers at feeders than last few years. Dickcissel: one, Dec 3, for three weeks, Dryden (PK). Evening Grosbeaks: Peaked in January and February (over 600 banded in Etna), declined in March; they were common at Keuka, where some invasions have not reached in the past. Purple Finches: a few all winter, numbers began arriving third week February, peaked first week March, but not in numbers of March '63. Pine Grosbeaks: Only three reports: three, Dec 13, w of Elmira (PAB); 20, Dec 27, Cornell campus, (DD); "few" Feb 5, near Caroline, (JS). Common Redpolls: almost none; small flock, Feb 27 Highland Road, Ithaca (HJ). Pine Siskins: small numbers in numerous locations, some coming to feeders. American Goldfinch: In numbers everywhere, at feeders, increased in early March. Crossbills: both species present, White-winged outnumbered Red 6:1 until March, when White-wings left, Reds remained, and began coming to feeders in small numbers; only part of region where uncommon was Geneva-Waterloo. Rufous-sided Towhee: one or two wintered. Tree Sparrows: flocks of up to 150 reported, and many more at Ithaca feeders than in some years. White-crowned Sparrow: (rare winterer): two individuals in December and early January. Fox Sparrow: one wintered, Elmira; five wintered at Hornell; one (first arrival) March 7, SWS (AL). Swamp Sparrow: two wintered, Ithaca area. Song Sparrow: usual numbers wintered; migrants in good numbers second week in March. Lapland Longspurs: very few records. Snow Buntings: very few and no large flocks, except at Geneva and Waterloo where reported "abundant" (JW).

Laboratory of Ornithology, Cornell University, Ithaca

REGION 4 — SUSQUEHANNA

LESLIE E. BEMONT

December was generally cold, but seldom very cold, with zero or near zero temperatures only four mornings. It never snowed very hard, but it seemed to fall almost constantly so we entered January with 10-11 inches on the ground. Although the 15th was the coldest day of the winter at —10 degrees January was above normal in temperature and also in snowfall, the latter being more than twice normal with more than half of it falling the 13th. February was on the cold side with normal precipitation. The first nine days of March were very warm. The 5th was the first day when there was less than 1 inch of snow on the ground at Binghamton after 84 consecutive days with an inch or more. The rapid melting plus considerable rain, particularly on the 10th, caused extensive flooding from the rivers. Weather the rest of the month was near normal, although the lowest temperature of the month was reserved for its very last day.

Whether in spite of the weather or because of it the list of "semihardies" reported was long, and some like Robins, Cowbirds, White-throated Sparrows and Song Sparrows were reported frequently. Indeed, few of the land bird "possibles" were entirely missing. The "winter finch" situation was very similar, with just about everything reported although most of them in small numbers. Evening Grosbeaks were here in impressive numbers, although not quite up to the expectations of this writer, at least. White-winged Crossbills put on a real show in December, and suffered some rather heavy casualties from cars while after salt along the roads, but seemed to fade out of most areas after the first of the year. Goldfinch numbers were also high. Even with such a varied background a Bohemian Waxwing report and no less than three Dickcissels stand out.

The waterfowl migration got off to a good start and included our first record of a European Widgeon in the region. Possibly coincidentally, and

possibly not, this spring starts a new era in which the water behind the Whitney Point Flood Control Dam is being maintained at a higher level to provide a more desirable area for recreation and wildlife. It was already one of the very few good areas in the region for observing waterfowl, but it appears to have been improved.

Contributors: PB — Philip Beihl, LB — Leslie Bemont, BB — Bradford Burgher, RB — Robert Burland, GC — Gail Corderman, WC — Warren Corderman, AC — Al Christopher, M, AD — Marilyn & Anna Davis, LD — Louise Dean, RD — Robert Dirig, AE — A. Evelein, CG — Clinton Gerould, SG — Silena Gorton, JG — John Gustafson, MH — Mrs. Myrtie Hills, CH — Claude Howard, EH — Mrs. Eleanor Howe, PK — Paul Kelsey, FL — Florence Linaberry, SL — Stanley Lincoln, HM — Harriet Marsi, MM — Mary Middaugh, LN — Les Newman, JO — Jack Osadchey, RP — Robert Pantle, FQ — Fern Quick, R, JS — Robert & Jean Saunders, MS — Mary Sheffield, AS — Anne Stratton, LS — Lois Stone, E, NW — Elizabeth & Newell Washburn, DW — Don Weber, MW — Mildred White, R, SW — Ruth & Sally White, CW — Connie Wilkins, EW — Mrs. Evelyn Williams, RW — Ruth Williams, SW — Stuart Wilson, HW — Herbert Wisner.

Abbreviations: BCC — Binghamton Christmas Count; OCC — Owego Christmas Count; Br — Bridge; Co — County; n — north; s — south; SGF — Sherburne Game Farm; Skan — Skaneateles.

Loons — Ducks: Common Loon: 2, Dec 21 (JO), the only report. Horned Grebe: 1, Jan 21, Owego (CG); 2, Jan 29, Skan Lake (JO); no others. Pied-billed Grebe: Dec 21, Skan Lake (JG), the only winter record; Mar 22, Chenango Br (HM, CG), the first spring report. Great Blue Heron: Dec 15, Oneonta (RB); Dec 21, Skan Lake (JG); 1, Dec 29 on the BCC; Jan 18, Owego (CG); spring records start Mar 7. Whistling Swan: 14, Nov 28, Chenango, Cortland Co (JO). Canada Goose: Dec 21, Homer (JG); 1, Dec 27, Binghamton (LB), probably a cripple; 340 in 5 flocks Mar 5, Ingraham Hill s of Binghamton (CH), the first migrants and the beginning of a rather heavy, regionwide, 4 day wave; next reported Mar 14 and then regularly to the end of the month with particularly large numbers Mar 17-18 and Mar 25-26. Mallard: 300 at SGF Jan 18 (R, SW) and 115 elsewhere in the region for the Census represents the winter population well; migrants starting Mar 7 with numbers increasing slowly from then on. Black Duck: 75, SGF, Jan 18 (R, SW) and 45 elsewhere for Waterfowl Census but 65 on BCC; migrants from Mar 7. Gadwall: Mar 17, Chenango Bridge (HM); Mar 26, Whitney Point (HM, CG, FL). Pintail: 3, Mar 8, Sherburne (R, SW); same date, Smithboro Flats (RW). Green-winged Teal: Mar 16, Chenango Br (HM, FL). Blue-winged Teal: Mar 22, Smithboro Flats (RW), abnormally early. European Widgeon: 1, Mar 28, Whitney Point (MS), red head, buff crown, pinkish front, white line on side and white in front of tail, blue bill, through 25X scope at 300 ft.; Mar 29, same place (MS, R, SW). American Widgeon: 2, Mar 13, Homer (JG). Wood Duck: Mar 7, Candor (DW), no more until Mar 27. Redhead: Dec 21, Skan Lake (JG), 60-75 there during Jan; migrants Mar 7, Candor (DW) and Mar 14, Chenango Br (GC, WC). Ring-necked Duck: Dec 21, Skan Lake (JG); 2, Mar 7, Norwich (R, SW). Canvasback: Dec 21, Skan Lake (JG), 28-90 there during Jan; migrants Mar 26 at Whitney Point (PK et al). Scaup sp : Jan 24, Skan Lake (JG). Greater Scaup: Mar 13, Whitney Point (RW) and Lesser Scaup: Mar 13, Whitney Point (HM) were most likely the same birds: many other Lesser reports. Common Goldeneye: 75 on Waterfowl Census close to total winter population; migrants Mar 19. Bufflehead: Mar 22, Whitney Point (RW), the only report. Old Squaw: Mar 26, Whitney Point (PK), the only report. Ruddy Duck: 3, Mar 29, Whitney Point (MS), the only report. Hooded Merganser: Mar 8, Smithboro Flats (RW), quite a few reports. Common Merganser: 66 on Waterfowl Census seems low for winter population as compared to previous years; numbers increasing from Mar 13. Red-breasted Merganser: Jan 18, Owego (MW, CG); 5, Mar 13, Skan Lake (JO).

Hawks — Owls: Turkey Vulture: 1, Mar 14, Afton (R, SW); 1, Mar

15, Hancock (RD); also at Cortland and Deposit. Goshawk: Feb 22, Choconut Center n or Johnson City (MS), a good look at gray back, pearly breast and white eye line, through binoculars at about 120 foot distance. Sharp-shinned Hawk: Dec 1, Homer (JG); 1, Mar 21, Ingraham Hill (CH); the only reports during the period. Cooper's Hawk: reported more frequently. Red-tailed Hawk: fairly frequent reports in Dec and Mar; fewer in Jan and Feb. Red-shouldered Hawk: Dec 29, on both OCC and BCC; Jan 26, Cortland (AC); Mar 1, Endwell (HM). Broad-winged Hawk: Mar 30, South Owego (CG), abnormally early and no details. Rough-legged Hawk; more reports than usual from throughout region; 8, Mar 15, between Willet and Smithville Flats (R, SW), all visible at one time. Bald Eagle: 1, Mar 7, Whitney Point (MS), this one made the newspapers several times during the month; 2, Mar 20, Cortland (LN); also Mar 20, Owego (EH). Marsh Hawk: Dec 14, Owego (MH); Mar 15, Whitney Point (HM, GC), best numbers in several years. Osprey: 1, Dec 22, Oxford (AS), no additional information; Mar 23, Whitney Point (MW, CG), abnormally early and no additional information. Pigeon Hawk: Mar 17, Worcester, Otsego Co (RB), no additional information; 1, Mar 25, Ingraham Hill (CH), a small gray falcon without the facial marking or rusty tail and back of a Sparrow Hawk, and also a noticeably different flight pattern.

Bobwhite: reported at Candor throughout the period (AE). Turkey: Jan 8, Candor (DW); 1 male and 3 females, Jan 10 to 22, near Unadilla (HW). Am. Coot: 1 or 2 on Skan Lake in Jan (JG, JO). Killdeer: 1, Jan 23, Norwich (R, SW); spring migrants Mar 5, Owego (EW) and Endwell (LB). Am. Woodcock: Mar 14, Castle Creek (BB); fairly generally distributed after Mar 20. Common Snipe: 1, Mar 14, Hancock (RD); at Cortland and Chenango Br soon after. Herring Gull: all winter along rivers as usual. Ring-billed Gull: "many" wintered at Cortland (JG); migrants Mar 4, Endwell (HM); 120, Mar 17, Owego (SL), largest concentration so far. Mourning Dove: 40 or more, all winter, E. Homer (Mrs. Whatley); numerous other Dec reports, few in Jan or Feb; migrants from Mar 9. Barn Owl: Dec 21, Homer (JG). Screech Owl: not many. Horned Owl: frequent reports. Snowy Owl: Jan 3, Cortland (LS). Saw-whet Owl: Feb 28, Hinmans Corners (R, JS), heard by several other observers thereafter, last time Mar 23; 1, Mar 24, Homer (JG).

Goatsuckers — Shrikes: Belted Kingfisher: the usual few wintered, scarce in Feb. Yellow-shafted Flicker: Dec 24, Choconut Center (MS), eating suet; several other Dec reports including both OCC and BCC; Jan. 28, Owego (AE) then no more until Mar 20, Cortland (CW). Pileated Woodpecker: reported fairly frequently from various parts of the region: 1 was shot near Freetown in Cortland Co when it was caught tearing into a barn; in Endwell one kept returning to a suburban back yard in a well populated area to work over a large pine. Red-headed Woodpecker: Dec 29, 1 on OCC (AE) and also 1 on Binghamton Count, but no other reports during period. Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: Mar 27, Owego (AE). Phoebe: 1, Mar 22, Oneonta (RB); almost everywhere by Mar 25. Horned Lark: a few all winter, as usual, at Owego and Binghamton; moderate sized flocks appeared around Cortland and Norwich in early Feb. Tree Swallow: Mar 25, Owego (MW). Purple Martin: 2, Mar 25 and 6, Mar 27, Owego (MH), some cold weather casualties followed, no details of identification supplied.

Blue Jay: not as abundant as last year, but still plentiful; at Deposit 30 banded and 115 returns to Mar 1 (SW). Boreal Chickadee: 2, Feb 25, Owego (Mrs. H. Colby), still coming to feeder at end of Mar. Black-capped Chickadee: "uncommonly common" at Deposit where 115 were banded (SW); 29 more banded at Unadilla (HW). Tufted Titmouse: reported at several feeders in the Deposit, Hancock and Triple Cities areas. Red-breasted Nuthatch: more than usual this winter at Cortland, Deposit and in the Triple Cities area and also reported from Owego and Norwich; at Freetown about a half dozen were trained to feed from the hand (AC). Brown Creeper: reported in usual small numbers all winter; Mar 1, singing at Hinman's Corners (MS). Mockingbird: 1 at Unadilla, seen off and on from Jan 1 to about Jan 18 and again Mar 9 to Mar 16 (HW); 1, Johnson City, until

Jan 31 (Barrett). Brown Thrasher: 3, Dec 29, BCC; also reported on OCC the same day. Robin: numerous winter reports, but not large numbers; migrants appeared around Mar 4 to 7. Hermit Thrush: Dec 13, Owego (MW); 1, Dec 29, BCC. Bluebird: 1, Dec 2, flying due north, calling (SW); Feb 28, Owego (MW); Mar 2, Owego (AE); Mar 7, Candor (RP); generally distributed after Mar 15. Ruby-crowned Kinglet: 1, Feb 15, Vestal (SL). Bohemian Waxwing: 6, Mar 8, Chenango Forks (M, AD); two white wing patches, larger, darker and grayer than Cedar Waxwing. Cedar Waxwing: medium sized flocks throughout the period at Owego, Cortland and in the Triple Cities area; largest flock, 200 at Scott, Cortland Co, Feb 14 (JO). Northern Shrike: 2 Dec reports and 7 Mar reports from Hancock, Triple Cities and Whitney Point. Loggerhead Shrike: 1, Mar 27, South Owego (MW, CG) black over bill, clear or grayish underparts, slightly drooping wings and flicking tail, from 15 feet with binoculars for about 5 minutes; 1, Mar 28, Chenango Br (SG), watched for 20 minutes, no "streaks" on breast, bill solid black and black marking over top of bill.

Warblers — Vireos: Myrtle Warbler: 1, Dec 9, Deposit (SW); 1, Jan 1, Newark Valley (PB); Mar 9, Sidney (FQ); Mar 22, Candor (DW). Bay-breasted Warbler: 1, Dec 1 and again Dec 5, Oxford (AS) apparently looking for food around feeder; extremely late, no further details so far.

Blackbirds — Sparrows: Meadowlark: Dec 21, Cortland (Mrs. Lester Barber); Dec 22, Deposit (SL); 1, Dec 26, Unadilla (HW); Jan 17, Endwell (HM, FL); also at Owego during winter months; migrants from Mar 6. Red-winged Blackbird: quite a few winter records; numerous migrants from Mar 6; first females Mar 18. Baltimore Oriole: 1, coming to feeder with Evening Grosbeaks all winter at Nichols (AE). Rusty Blackbird: 1, 2 and 1, Dec 14, 15 and 16 respectively, Endwell (E, NW); 1, at feeder all winter, Owego (MW); 1, on and off during winter at Newark Valley (LD); migrants Mar 14, Chenango Forks (M, AD). Common Grackle: quite a few feeders in the Triple Cities and Owego areas had occasional visits from singles during the winter; also one Dec 29 report from Cortland; migrants Mar 8. Brown-headed Cowbird: 50 or more, Dec 1 and daily in erratically varying numbers from 1 to 30 until Jan 12, Unadilla (HW); 50 or more, Dec 29, Cortland (Mrs. Lester Barber); small numbers at many feeders scattered throughout the region all winter; migrants from Mar 8 on.

Cardinal: reported regularly almost everywhere in the region now; 14 at one time, Feb 9, Chenango Forks (M, AD). Dickcissel: 1, Dec 4 to 22 several times, and again Mar 13 to 31, Chenango Br (SG); 1, Dec 29, Cortland (CW); 1, Mar 10, Binghamton (H. Perry, W. Bartle). Evening Grosbeak: present everywhere in large numbers but not quite up to the numbers of some past peak years. Purple Finch: present everywhere, but in small numbers — a few more between Feb 9 and Mar 19 but then numbers dropped again. Pine Grosbeak: scattered reports all period, generally of from 1 to 10 birds; 20 or so, Jan 28 and 30, Hancock (RD); 35, Jan 31, Norwich (R, SW). Redpoll: scattered reports of very small numbers all period; a little more frequent from Mar 11 to 19 at Binghamton; 30, Jan 19, Norwich (R, SW), the only flock of any size reported all winter. Pine Siskin: scattered reports of small to moderate flocks during Dec; none from Dec 29 to Jan 28; then regular to the end of the period but never in very large numbers. Goldfinch: regular in some numbers all winter. Red Crossbill: quite a few reports in Dec in moderate numbers; last reported Jan 17, South Owego (EW). White-winged Crossbill: large numbers in much of the region during Dec; 100 or more, Dec 8, Sherburne (R, SW) and 89 on the BCC, Dec 29; present at Unadilla (Carpenter) and Cortland (JG) through Feb; 1, Mar 1 to 6, Deposit (SW), banded. Rufous-sided Towhee: Dec 29 and Jan 8, Owego (DW, CG); Mar 30, Cortland (CW); 1, a regular visitor at a feeder in E. Worcester (RB). Vesper Sparrow: 1, Dec 29, Chenango Br (LB); Feb 5, S. Owego (CG); 1, early Feb, at a feeder in Homer (M. Steinbeck). Slate-colored Junco: the usual small numbers wintering throughout the region, including some in the hills around Norwich where they are not so usual in the winter (R, SW); migrants swelled numbers starting about Mar 1.

Oregon Junco: Dec 7 and Jan 3, Oneonta (RB); 1, Dec 10 and 11, Afton (Mrs. C. Kessler), brown back, darker head and pink sides from about seven feet through a window in good light. Field Sparrow: 2, Dec 21, Cortland (CW); 1, Dec 22 and 29 and Jan 23, Glenwood Cemetery in Binghamton (MS, et al); 1, Feb 22, Vestal (SL); Mar 23 and 24, Castle Creek (BB); also 1, on and off during winter, Newark Valley (LD). White-crowned Sparrow: 1, Dec 21 and Jan 4, Hancock (RD); 1, Jan 13, Binghamton (Mrs. Warren Jennings). White-throated Sparrow: many feeders in region had 1 or 2 all winter. Fox Sparrow: 1, Dec 4, Cortland (CW); 2, Dec 21, Sidney (HW); 1, Dec 29, BCC; Jan 28 at feeder in Owego and remained for rest of the period; migrants from Mar 7 and quite numerous. Swamp Sparrow: Dec 21, Homer (JG); 1, Dec 29, Chenango Br (LB); Mar 28, Hancock (RD). Song Sparrow: a few everywhere all winter and must have added up to a quite considerable number; Feb 25, Homer (JG), singing: migrants really noticeable from about Mar 15. Lapland Longspur: Mar 7, Oneonta (RB). Snow Bunting: a few small flocks after Dec 29; 100, Feb 9, Sanitaria Springs (E, NW) and 100, Feb 14, Freetown (AC), the largest: 75, Mar 8, Ingraham Hill (CH), the last.
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REGION 5 — ONEIDA LAKE BASIN

DAVID B. PEAKALL AND MARGARET S. RUSK

December was extremely cold; otherwise temperatures were around normal except for a short warm spell in early March, which brought the first landbird influx. Snowfall was low, except in December, and total precipitation was 30% below normal. Most of the winter was considerably more sunny than usual.

The outstanding feature of the season was the fine varied winter finch flights. The invasion of White-winged Crossbill was especially noteworthy. Waterfowl census figures were slightly higher than last year but still lower than average. Numbers of wintering hawks were low.

Abbreviations: BBFS — Dr. Ben Burtt's feeder survey, held the first week of each month; figures cited are per 100 reports; CC — Christmas Count, Syracuse's on Dec 22, Oswego Dec 29, and Oneida Jan 1; HIGMA — Howlands Island Game Management Area; Onon — Onondaga; RSP — Rome Sand Plains; Skan — Skaneateles; Syr — Syracuse; WFC — Waterfowl Count, held Jan 18-26; L — Lake; R — River; arr — arrived; max — maximum.

Regular observers: DA — Dorothy Ackley; JB — Jon Bart; GMC — Gerald and Marge Church; DD — Dorothy Dawley; C, EF — Charles and Esther Farham; GG — George Gage; JH — John Haugh; JP — Jean Propst; CS — Christian Spies; BS — Betty Starr; IS — Ina Stone.

Loons — Ducks: Common Loon: singles at Baldwinsville and Oswego on WFC, neither wintered. Horned Grebe: 22 on WFC, back into the normal range after last year's low count. Pied-billed Grebe: singles wintered at Baldwinsville, Pheonix, and Oswego. Great Blue Heron: no wintering records; (first) Fulton, Feb 29.

Whistling Swan: four Onon L Mar 7 (JP), five Otisco Mar 24 (JP), two HIGMA Mar 26 (GG), and two over Syracuse Mar 27 (R. Seaman). Canada Goose: first main flight noted in several parts of the Region Mar 6-7; about 9000 in evening flight, Seneca R flats Mar 30. Snow Goose: one, Seneca R near Baldwinsville Mar 8 (JP). Mallard and Black: total numbers wintering were low due to less artificial feeding. Counts of Mallard (194)

and Black (373) on WFC for the whole Oswego R (away from game management areas) were about normal. Pintail: six, Oswego R flats, WFC; at least four wintered successfully; first migrants Mar 7 Derby Hill; max 1,100 HIGMA. Green-winged Teal: arr Seneca R flats Mar 22. Blue-winged Teal: arr Pompey Mar 26 and Seneca R flats Mar 30. American Widgeon: arr Onon L Mar 6. Wood Duck: arr Scott Swamp and Derby Hill Mar 6.

The regional counts, given elsewhere, of the principal species of diving duck on WFC were generally on the low side of normal. The early January build-up of numbers of the common wintering diving ducks is shown by comparison of the Oswego CC (Dec 29) and WFC (Jan 18). Counts are for the same areas (thus figures of WFC are not total). Goldeneye 66 to 851, Scaup 1000 to 5700, Common Merganser 431 to 3162. Ring-necked Duck: four (Baldwinsville, Oswego, Skan L) WFC; first migrants Oneida L Mar 8; only poor numbers to the end of the period — max 30/day. Bufflehead: 93 WFC; rise in numbers in Feb; max 165 Oswego Feb 23. King Eider: one-four Oswego harbor Jan 18 — late Mar. Harlequin: female or imm, Oswego harbor Feb 8-16 (J. Foster, A. Maley, T. Tetlow), fourth record in nine years. White-winged Scoter: 150 Oneida L Dec 3 (JP); one-four through winter at Oswego. Surf Scoter: one, Oswego, Dec 29-Jan 5. Ruddy Duck: five occurrences involving seven birds during the winter.

Hawks — Owls: The intensive study of hawk migration at Derby Hill, Lake Ontario, was continued this year by John Haugh. Hawk counts covering the entire migration period will be given in the spring issue. Wintering accipiters were scarce; no records of Goshawks and few of either of the other species. Numbers of wintering Roughlegs were low, not exceeding two/day except for eight, Sherrill, Mar 12, which may refer to migrants. Bald Eagle: adult, Otter L, late Feb (Whitmans); imm, Oswego, Mar 7 (JB, BS).

Killdeer: departure Dec 11, Otisco L; one Jan 4, Tully; one wintered near Eaton; arr Derby Hill Mar 4. Woodcock: arr Mar 16, Liverpool. Snipe: arr Mar 20, Eaton. Greater Yellowlegs: arr Mar 30, Seneca R flats.

Glaucous Gull: max four, Oswego, Feb 23. Iceland Gull: high count of about 12, Oswego, Feb 23 (F. Scheider). Great Black-backed Gull: 343 Oswego CC is lower than last year and in general numbers seemed lower. Bonaparte's Gull: arr Onon L Mar 27 (CS).

Snowy Owl: two Onon L Dec 23; one present there most of the winter. Long-eared Owl: one-two E. Syracuse, Feb. Short-eared Owl: recorded at Shepp's Corners, Clay, and E. Syracuse during period. Saw-whet Owl: one HIGMA late Dec (GG).

Goatsuckers — Shrikes: Kingfisher: four on Christmas counts and two still wintering in Jan in the southern parts of the Region; spring return Mar 22 Derby Hill. Flicker: unusually many into Dec (nine BBFS); eleven on Syr CC; high numbers through Jan and Feb (nine and eight respectively, BBFS); spring arrival Mar 8 Onon L. Pileated Woodpecker: new locations are Highland Forest near Fabius, Taberg (a pair Feb), and Derby Hill (regularly present Mar). Red-bellied: new location is Camillus, a male at the D. Beebes' feeder intermittently through the winter; one at Pratt's Falls Jan (JB); almost regular now at New Haven — one present to Feb 9 (IS); two reports from near Otisco L; noted at Baldwinsville, Plainville, Cato, Lysander, and Port Byron — all in the Seneca R vicinity where the species is commonest; up to five in a day at HIGMA. Sapsucker: one Syr CC attempting to winter. Black-backed Three-toed Woodpecker: a migrant male passing Derby Hill alighted momentarily on a telephone pole, Mar 9 (JH).

Phoebe: arr Mar 17 Derby Hill, a bit early. Horned Lark: reported on two of the four Christmas counts; max for winter 150 Oswego Feb 15 (JB); otherwise no reports of over 50; several observers noted a paucity of them. Blue Jay: BBFS showed the highest Dec count in five years; record numbers (212) on Syr CC confirm that they were plentiful in early winter. A Jan Crow count by Dwight Chamberlain and BS at the Onon Hill roost totaled

about 13,000. First migrant Crows noted at Derby Hill Feb 17; the big Mar flight there had two peaks, with an estimated 11,300 passing on Mar 7 and 15,000 the 24th (JH).

Black-capped Chickadee: BBFS showed normal numbers after the highs of the past two years; largest field report is 50 in a day, RSP Mar 12. Boreal Chickadee: one in spruce plantations near Centerville Feb 23 (C, EF) is the only report outside of the Adirondacks. Tufted Titmouse: two Sherrill Dec BBFS; two regular in Mexico Jan (fide IS); regular at Baldwinsville and up to five at Brewerton (BBFS); three Kirkville Mar (BBFS); one Jan 19 Fabius (JB) in the upper Limestone Creek valley, recalls a Manlius Titmouse location of several years ago; none at North Bay this winter. Red-breasted Nuthatch: frequent and regular in the field in all parts of the Region all winter — up to six in a day; 11, a record high, Syr CC; singles and pairs at feeders, in some cases for the first time.

Winter and Carolina Wrens: one each, Syr CC, the last wrens reported. The usual scattering of winter mimids — Mockingbird: the Mexico and Fayetteville individuals (see fall Kingbird report) present into early Dec; one each Marcellus (W. Lang) and Elbridge (Dr. J. Nichols) early Jan. Catbird: one at New Haven (See fall Kingbird report) remained to Dec 17; a pair through Dec, Skan (Mrs. L. Miller). Brown Thrasher: two from Dec 7 at the same New Haven feeder as the Catbird — one Thrasher stayed to Jan 18. Robin: 22 Syr CC, an all-time high, and one each on Oswego and Oneida CCs, the latter bird present to Jan 28; Jan BBFS had 11 instead of the usual one or two; several small flocks of seven to 17 in Jan in the field, near Syr and to the SW of there; drop in numbers Feb; first migrant Derby Hill Mar 1, with Mar influx the 7th to 8th. Bluebird: about six Mar reports of birds returning to former nesting areas.

Ruby-crowned Kinglet: unusual is three in early Dec (Syr, BBFS) one of which remained to Jan 5 (DD). Cedar Waxwing: 20-30 noted flycatching around buildings in Kenwood during the Jan 19-24 thaw which produced a hatch of insects (DA). A shifting flock of up to 700 Cedar Waxwings spent Feb and Mar in a berry-rich swamp near Onon Hill. One Bohemian Waxwing was noted in this vicinity Feb 20 (C. Ives); two Bohemians were with Cedar Waxwings Mar 24 at Fish Gulf (BS, JP) — this group of waxwings may have been a detachment from the big flock 10 miles away. Northern Shrike: surprisingly, none on Syr CC (nor on any of the other counts); present during the period in all parts of the Region, but never more than three in a day (late Feb, L. Ontario); singing noted in late Feb and early Mar. Loggerhead Shrike: first, Mar 20 (JH), another Mar 28 (P. Paquette) both Derby Hill.

Warblers — Sparrows: Myrtle Warbler: one each, early Dec, Richland (Mrs. E. Riley), Syr to Dec 17 (DD), and Baldwinsville Jan (Wilfreda Mott); two Syr CC. Northern Waterthrush: one heard singing on the extremely early date of Mar 21, Onon Hill (CF).

Meadowlark: none on Christmas counts; a few in late Dec Skan, and two intermittently in Jan in Sherrill are the only reports before Mar, despite the low amount of snow. Baltimore Oriole: a late lingerer 1st week of Dec at a Sandy Creek feeder (Mrs. C. M. Carpenter). Rusty Blackbird: two, late Dec Liverpool (CS) are the last. Grackle: BBFS showed three times normal numbers in Dec, but only two individuals remained by Feb. Cowbird: Dec BBFS numbers five times the normal — did the early heavy snow drive them to feeders? Spring influx of Meadowlark, Redwing, Rusty and Grackle Mar 7 (JH at Derby Hill, and BBFS), a few days late; Cowbirds arrived a little later.

Cardinal: BBFS shows the population to have now leveled off; territory gained in recent years around the SE corner of L Ontario remains occupied. Dickcissel: one from Dec 21 to early Jan, Onon Hill (C, EF) and two in late Mar — Marcellus (fide CS) and Sherrill (P. Wayland-Smith) all three males with an indistinct black V — the first time for more than one report per winter.

Certainly the outstanding event of the winter has been the invasion of northern finches, with eight forest species well represented and the White-winged Crossbill in numbers roughly ten times the previous high since the beginning of Regional reports. Evening Grosbeak: Dec numbers were moderate, but high enough to indicate a big flight; Jan BBFS tally of 1220 was almost as high as in the biggest previous year, 1959-60, and the Feb BBFS figure of 1870 was the highest ever; Mar already showed a marked drop-off, to 1270 BBFS, but many remained through the period. Purple Finch: present through the period, though in nothing like last year's numbers; BBFS showed a steady increase from ten in Dec to 48 in Mar, which is usual; in the field, birds reappeared first (in Jan and Feb) in the southern parts of the Region, later to the north. Pine Grosbeak: a scattered few in Dec, mostly near Syr; the increased number of sightings in Jan was chiefly from NE of Oneida L and the SE corner of L Ontario; by Feb they were common pan-regionally, with the highest counts for the winter — flocks of 75 each at Big Moose Feb 2 (JB) and Eaton Feb 8 (GC), and a total of 43 birds along L Ontario Feb 22; most had disappeared by mid-Mar; in sum, about as large a flight as Region 5 experiences one year in three, but not as massive as the 1961-2 invasion. Redpoll: only a scattered few Dec; reported more frequently Jan — from various parts of the Region — but difficult to count accurately as they were often in mixed flocks with Siskins and/or Goldfinches passing overhead; BBFS numbers were highest in Jan but Redpolls were most widespread in the field in Feb and Mar, with highest flock counts 300 Feb 29, Highland Forest (JB), 160 Mar 1 RSP (DA) with Siskins and Goldfinches, 100 Pleasant L Mar 21 (CS) and 150 Mar 22 Otisco L (BS); northbound migrants over Derby Hill in numbers up to 100 in a day Mar 8 and still passing after the end of the period. Siskin and Goldfinch: both present all four months, but Siskin numbers climbed steadily from Dec to Mar both at feeders and in the field; maximum counts are moderate — 60 Siskins Mar 19 Fischer Bay and 50 Goldfinch Mar 29 Oneida; flocks of both *Spinus* together, or of one or both with Redpolls, were more frequent than flocks of only one species. Red Crossbill: about six reports in Dec, of flocks of up to ten; in Jan, more frequently noted and at feeders for the first time; widespread in Feb (no part of the Region seemed to be favored over others) with 50 at Highland Forest Feb 1, the highest flock count of the winter; Mar BBFS 31, highest feeder count; present through the end of the period. White-winged Crossbill: appeared suddenly in late Nov and early Dec in a spectacular pan-regional irruption, feeding in cedar and hemlock as well as spruce; largest flock for the period is 400, Dec 23, Eaton (GC) but several other flocks of over 100 were reported in Dec; numbers declined in Jan as those of the Red increased; by Feb it was difficult to find White-winged away from spruce groves (e.g. s Madison Co, Cicero Bog); in Mar, migrating flocks of up to 20, especially over Derby Hill, and a few remaining at the end of Mar.

Towhee, late and wintering: one Fulton (Dec BBFS); one Dec 15 Tully (JP); one survived until Jan 1 (Oneida CC) when it succumbed to cold or starvation; a pair Camillus (Jan BBFS); two females New Haven (JS) one into Jan and the other to Mar 1. Junco: present in the field all winter in numbers of up to about 20/day.

Half-hardy sparrows — Chipping: one at a feeder into early Dec Syr (BS). Field: four Syr and six Oneida CCs is unusual. White-crowned: in Jan and Feb, only two or three reports, of singles, at feeders. White-throated: about a dozen reports, the majority from feeders. Fox: several late migrants on Dec BBFS; two Oneida and one Syr CC; a sizeable mid-Mar influx starting with four at Eaton Mar 8 (G, MC). Swamp: last in the field were five Syr CC. Song: many more than usual at feeders (BBFS Dec 52, Jan 60, Feb 69, Mar 55) and small numbers in the field all winter (max 10 Port Byron Jan 1); despite the presence of wintering birds, an influx of migrants the first week of Mar was noted.

Lapland Longspur and Snow Bunting: in contrast with the forest finches, occurred in quite low numbers; only report of Longspurs is of up to 12 Derby Hill Jan 26-Feb 12 (JB) in a flock of up to 500 buntings, by far the largest flock of the latter all winter; 150 buntings Pompey Jan; no other flocks over 40; up to 35 in a day migrating past Derby Hill in late Mar.

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REGION 6 — ST. LAWRENCE

FRANK A. CLINCH

The weather during December reminded us of the winter of 1962-63. The average temperature was about five degrees below normal and there was more than the usual amount of snow. January and February brought milder weather with only light to moderate amounts of snow. March gave us two or three heavy falls of snow, but each was soon followed by warmer weather that melted the snow. The total snow was only half that of the previous winter. The first Robins, Cowbirds, Grackles and Red-winged Blackbirds arrived early. The only unusual bird was an immature Glaucous Gull.

PRGMA is used for the Perch River Game Management Area.

Loons — Ducks: Horned Grebe: 13 at Henderson Bay Dec 4, and five at Pt. Peninsula Dec 8. Canada Goose: Several reports during the winter. They stayed at Perch Lake (PRGMA) at least until Dec 10. A flock of about 100 was seen flying Dec 10. About 25 probably remained all winter and were seen between Lake Ontario and PRGMA. Another 14 wintered in Lake St. Lawrence. On Dec 26 a flock of about 40 was seen flying south during a snow storm. About 75 geese in two flocks flew over Watertown Mar 7, but seemed confused and finally turned toward the south. Perhaps they failed to find much open water at that time. The highest count was 500 between PRGMA and Perch River Village, but there probably were many more at PRGMA. Pintail: seen Dec 21; began returning Mar 2, but in somewhat smaller numbers than most years. Oldsquaw: 20 at Henderson Feb 22, and 70 Mar 21. Green-winged Teal: five near PRGMA Mar 29. Hooded Merganser: two at Dexter Dec 2 and one at Watertown Jan 1. A good flight in Mar; 13 at Black Lake Mar 13 and several pairs in the region later in Mar.

Hawks — Owls: Sharp-shinned Hawk: Jan 19, near Tibbitts Pt. Cooper's Hawk: one around Watertown most of winter. Red-tailed Hawk: more numerous than in any recent winter, four seen Jan 8. Rough-legged Hawk: fairly plentiful, but not as numerous as some years. High count four to six in Dec and 8 in Mar. Bald Eagle: one flying over Watertown Dec 25; an adult at Fishers Landing about Mar 1, and one about Mar 20, perhaps carrying nesting material. Marsh Hawk: Mar 15. Killdeer: Mar 19 at Calcium. Glaucous Gull: immature at Sulphur Springs Mar 9 (Belknap). Great Black-backed Gull: 1-3 in Dec-Jan. Herring Gull: around most of winter. Ringed-billed Gull: Mar 9 at Sulphur Springs, early. Snowy Owl: a few seen, but rather scarce compared with some years. Short-eared Owl: Philadelphia Dec 17 and Pt. Peninsula Jan 5.

Goatsuckers — Sparrows: Horned Lark: Several on Pt. Peninsula Jan 1, and quite common after Feb 15. Tree Swallow: at PRGMA Mar 29. Blue Jay: Several at feeders all winter. Crow: more numerous than in any recent winter; 20-30 west of Watertown in Jan. White-breasted Nuthatch: at feeders all winter. Red-breasted Nuthatch: Mar 1 at South Edwards. Robin: arrived early in Mar before a snow storm. Northern Shrike: few seen. Meadowlark: Dec 8 and Mar 14. Red-winged Blackbird: males Mar 7. Grackle: Dec 14 and again early in Mar. Brown-headed Cowbird: six to ten in Watertown all winter.

Cardinal: about as many as last year. Evening Grosbeak: present in good numbers all winter, but hardly a record flight. Purple Finch: a few reported, but almost none at feeders in Mar. Pine Grosbeak: a good year, but seemed less common in Mar. Redpoll: common, especially in first three weeks in Mar. Pine Siskin: small numbers Jan-Mar, rarely at feeders. Goldfinch: large flock at Pt. Peninsula Jan 1 and small flocks later. Red Crossbill: 50 Dec 4 near Potsdam (Amstutz). They appeared at several feeders in or near Watertown during Mar taking sunflower seeds. The high count was 14 of which half were males. White-winged Crossbills: flocks of 50-60 around Gouverneur in Dec, and also at Theresa and Watertown. They became

scarce later, but were seen at Henderson Feb 22, and near South Edwards Mar 1. Song Sparrow: a few around feeders all winter. Lapland Longspur: about 100 at Pt. Peninsula Dec 7, unusually numerous in Dec and early Jan, not seen later. Snow Bunting: seen regularly, last a single bird at PRGMA Mar 29.

173 Haley St., Watertown 13601

REGION 7 — ADIRONDACK - CHAMPLAIN

HARRIET L. DELAFIELD

The winter period for this region was notable for low snow depths and, surprisingly it seems to me, a lack of birds. December temperatures were moderate for the month. One of the coldest days (as is often the case) being our Christmas Count day, Dec 21, which ranged from -11° to $+9^{\circ}$.

January weather was close to normal according to the weather station at Ray Brook though snow depths on the ground were five to ten percent below normal because of a few heavy snowfalls. The greatest snowfall in any one storm was only four and one half inches. The thaw, January 19-25 reduced the snow cover from twelve inches to eight inches but small falls caused it to grow rapidly after that.

February followed the January pattern of small snowstorms. Temperatures for the month were above those for most years. March "brought the usual amount of unusual weather": an early thaw, high winds and uneven temperatures. The largest snowfall of the entire winter occurred on March 11 when ten inches surprised the countryside.

Apparently the Brown-headed Cowbirds enjoyed the lack of snow and cold as they stayed all winter in numbers. Feeders were quite active in general but birds in the woods were extremely scarce. Often I would do my rounds and come home with only two chickadees or one Blue Jay on my list. Amstutz remarks of wood walks "sometimes did not even see or hear a chickadee."

Goshawk, Bald Eagle, Spruce Grouse, Black-backed Three-toed Woodpecker and the Cardinal at Essex relieve the monotony of my report somewhat. Otherwise only the small numbers of certain species, such as the Pine Siskin, are noteworthy.

Observers and Initials: AA — Agnes Amstutz; ED — Ethel Dyer; HD — Harriet Delafield; JD — Mrs. John Delahanty; JH — Joseph Hart; JK — Joseph Keji; MM — Marion Mason.

Abbreviations used: L — Lake; R — River.

Loons — Ducks: American Bittern: one Mar 21 (early) Saranac R (JH). Canada Goose: five Mar 8, 13 Mar 15 Tupper L (AA); five Mar 23 Saranac R (JH); many if not all of these probable returns of banded birds put out by NY State Conservation Dept spring 1963. Common Goldeneye: five Mar 8, three Mar 29 Little Tupper L (AA); 11 Mar 8 Tupper L (JD). Black Duck: one or two Dec 21, Feb 21, Mar 21 Saranac R (HD). Hooded Merganser: four Mar 29 Little Tupper L (AA); one Mar 21 Saranac R (JH).

Hawks — Owls: Goshawk: one Dec 21 and Jan 17; records show this bird to be rare around Saranac L in winter (HD). Bald Eagle: one Mar 22 Tupper L (Bill Frenette). Sparrow Hawk: one Mar 15 Tupper L (JD); one back at Saranac L Mar 25, same date as 1963 (HD). Spruce Grouse: one Feb 28 Cranberry L area (JH). Ruffed Grouse: fewer tracks around woods, Tupper L (AA); good numbers near doctor's cottages at Ray Brook (JK); normal around Saranac L (HD). Killdeer: one at Gabriels Mar 5 (David Young); one on Sunmount lawn Mar 25-26 (AA); one Saranac L Mar 27 (HD). American Woodcock: just in under the wire, three along Raquette R Mar 31 (AA). Herring Gull: three Mar 8 Tupper L (AA); one Saranac R Mar 17 (HD). Mourning Dove: 12-15 on Willsboro Point Mar 25 (fide MM); Sunmount lawn Mar 28 (AA); one Mar 28 Saranac L (ED).

Goatsucker — Shrikes: Belted Kingfisher: one at Ray Brook Jan 2 and 12 (JK). Pileated Woodpecker: one Jan 28 Ray Brook (JK); one Dec 21

and Mar 3 Saranac L (JH, HD). Hairy Woodpecker: reported in normal numbers from all areas. Downy Woodpecker: same as Hairy. Black-backed Three-toed Woodpecker: one female at Ray Brook (JK). Horned Lark: three Mar 20 Saranac L (HD); six Mar 29 Tupper L (AA). Gray Jay: one at conifer feeder Tupper L Jan 5-10 (AA); one Cranberry L area Feb 28 (JH). Blue Jay: reported in good numbers from all areas. Common Crow: back Mar 1 Tupper L (AA); Mar 3 Saranac L (HD); Mar 6 Ray Brook (JK). Black-capped Chickadee: seemed down in numbers around Tupper L, (AA) stresses "very few in woods"; Ray Brook "common as usual" (JK); many birds seemed fewer than past few winters so did chickadees around Saranac L (HD). Boreal Chickadee: one or two reported at feeders in Tupper L (AA), Saranac L (HD) and Ray Brook (JK); only one flock of four seen in woods Dec 27 Saranac L (HD). White-breasted Nuthatch: reports normal. Red-breasted Nuthatch: one at Tupper L in Feb (AA, JD); more common than usual during latter part of period at Ray Brook (JK) and Saranac L (HD). Brown Creeper: two Dec 21, one Feb 15 Saranac L (HD); one at intervals, "decrease from last year," Ray Brook (JK). Robin: one Ray Brook Dec 12; first spring birds, Tupper L Mar 12 (Betty Martin); Saranac L Mar 21 (HD); Ray Brook Mar 25 (JK); JD reports same bird with "streaked breast" in her yard for fourth year Tupper L. Golden-crowned Kinglet: scarce, one Dec 21 Franklin Falls (David Young). Cedar Waxwing: two Dec 17-19 Tupper L (JD).

Starling — Sparrows: Starling: returned in some numbers Tupper L Mar 8, 60 Mar 29 (AA); Ray Brook Mar 3 (JK); Saranac L Mar 5 (HD). Myrtle Warbler: one near Willsboro Mar 28 (fide MM). Eastern Meadowlark: one Mar 18 Saranac L (HD), eight Mar 28 Tupper L (AA). Red-winged Blackbird: a few at feeders all winter throughout area; back in numbers Ray Brook Mar 21 (JK); Saranac L (HD) and Tupper L Mar 22 (AA). Common Grackle: one or two reported at feeders all winter; back Tupper L Mar 17 (AA); Ray Brook Mar 22 (JK). Brown-headed Cowbird: these birds were a surprise this winter; a flock of 15 to 30 stayed at Saranac all winter (HD); some were at Ray Brook all winter (JK); Tupper L reports them late and early (AA) with a record 94 on Jan 5 (JD). **Cardinal:** outside Essex in Jan, no exact dates given, one Mar 20 in Essex village (fide MM). Evening Grosbeak: good numbers reported throughout period from Tupper L (AA, JD); and Ray Brook (JK); smaller flocks than 1963 at Saranac L (HD). Purple Finch: abnormally rare for Mar; ten Tupper L Mar 28 (AA); ten Ray Brook Mar 29 (JK); small flock reported in late Mar Saranac L (HD). Pine Grosbeak: the most numerous winter finch of early part of period, flocks thru. Jan 14 Ray Brook (JK); Jan 18 Tupper L (JD); Jan 23 Saranac L (HD); flock Feb 22 between Essex and Willsboro (MM); Mar reports from Tupper L and Ray Brook. Common Redpoll: good numbers throughout period at Tupper L (AA, JD) and Saranac L (HD); two Feb 10 "that's all" Ray Brook (JK); flock near Willsboro Mar 16 (fide MM). Pine Siskin: extreme drop in numbers, 12 Tupper L Dec 17 "none thereafter" (AA); Ray Brook "many less than last year" (JK); Saranac L "extremely rare to date, two off and on after Feb 27" (HD). American Goldfinch: one Jan 13 Tupper L (JD); one banded Ellenburg Depot Feb 11 (Mrs. McGreggor); many reports of small flocks around Saranac L after Mar 11 (HD). Red Crossbill: 20 at Sunmount Dec 15 (AA); four Tupper L Dec 8 (JD); scattered reports in all months Ray Brook (JK); pair at feeder Feb 22 thru. Mar 27, five Mar 18 Saranac L (HD). White-winged Crossbill: four Dec 28 Saranac L (HD); three Jan 19, one Feb 18 Ray Brook (JK). Slate-colored Junco: scattered reports of small numbers Dec and late Mar. Tree Sparrow: small numbers in all areas throughout period, Tupper L 15 on Jan 22 (JD), flocks Mar 15 on (AA); common since Mar 6 Ray Brook (JK). White-crowned Sparrow: one at feeder Saranac L until Dec 4 (E Barnett fide HD). White-throated Sparrow: one at feeder Saranac L until Dec 21 (E Barnett). Fox Sparrow: one Mar 27 Saranac L (ED). Song Sparrow: one singing Mar 14 Tupper L (AA); first Mar 24 Ray Brook and Saranac L (JK, HD). Snow Bunting: Tupper L "occasional flocks, 15-20, all winter" (AA); few scattered flocks around Saranac L, 50 Jan 4 (HD).

Trudeau Road, Saranac Lake

REGION 8 — MOHAWK - HUDSON

PETER P. WICKHAM

After a very cold and snowy Dec, temperatures in Jan and Feb were near average this past winter. Dec, with an average temperature of 18.1° at Albany was the fourth coldest Dec on record, 8.4° below normal. Snow accumulation by the end of the month was about a foot in most areas. Jan and Feb, in contrast, averaged close to normal in temperature. Precipitation in Jan totaled 3.35 in, 0.88 in. above normal, alleviating the critical shortage of water in many areas. Precipitation in Feb totalled 1.63 in, 0.64 in. less than normal, and in Mar 2.93 in, 0.21 in. above average. Mar temperatures were well above average the first ten days of the month, and below average over the last half.

The most notable developments of the winter were the fine flight of winter finches, marked by the widespread appearance of both species of crossbill, and the unexpected appearance of wintering White-crowned Sparrows in several areas. Birds of prey — notably hawks, owls and shrikes — continued to be uncommon, although hawks increased in abundance in many sections in Jan and Feb. Despite the bitter weather of Dec, which drove virtually all the waterfowl out of the area, many rather rare winter landbirds were reported in one or two areas in Region 8. These included Sapsucker, Winter Wren, Catbird, Brown Thrasher, Hermit Thrush, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Myrtle Warbler, Baltimore Oriole, and Savannah, Chipping and Fox Sparrows.

In late Jan and early Feb, warmer weather produced some open water in the Hudson River south of Albany, and several species — e.g., Herring Gull, Pintail and Common Goldeneye — appeared in the area at that time. On Mar 5, the warmest day of the period (71° at Albany) the first major influx of spring migration occurred, with the appearance of Redwings, Grackles, Cowbirds, Killdeer, and many gulls and ducks. Continued warm weather over the next ten days brought numbers of additional migrants into the Region. Colder weather over the latter half of the month (which averaged 3.7° lower in temperature than the first half) arrested migration in most areas (excluding waterfowl).

Especially unusual or rare species reported during the period included Snow Goose, Broad-winged Hawk, Bald Eagle, Iceland Gull, Saw-whet Owl, a hybrid Red-Yellow-shafted Flicker, Swainson's Thrush, and Bay-breasted Warbler.

Abbreviations used: com — common; cr — crowned; L — Lake; nr — near; NWW — Niskayuna Wide Waters; Res — Reservoir; R — River; Sar — Saratoga; Sch — Schenectady; SCRes — Stony Creek Reservoir; thr — throated; Tomh — Tomhannock; WRes — Watervleit Reservoir; w — winged; GCC — Greene County Bird Club (Catskill) Christmas Count; SCC — Schenectady Christmas Count; TCC — Troy Christmas Count; Colu Co — Columbia County.

Observers: ADBC — Alan Devoe Bird Club; GCBC — Greene Co Bird Club; SBC — Schenectady Bird Club; TB, AB — Thomas & Arlene Brown; LB — Lee Burland; JHB — James Bush; BB, DB — Barbara & Deborah Bush; JC — Juanita Cook; HE — Hazel Eddy; DE — David Eilers; PE, GE — Paul & Georgia Erlenbach; MWF — Mable French; JF — John Fuller; EH — Esly Hallenbeck; JH — Jean Hervey; MK — Marcia Kent; CK — Clarissa Ketcham; JP, EP — John & Eloise Payne; ER — Eleanor Radke; EMR — Dr. Edgar M. Reilly; WBS — Walton Sabin; WS — Walter Smith; RW — Robert Wernick; PPW — Peter Wickham; RPY — Robert Yunick; also, B-H, Guy Bartlett & Barry Havens; B-S, Guy Bartlett & Benton Seguin; B-S-H, Bartlett, Seguin & Havens.

Loons — Ducks: Com Loon: first Mar 15, NWW (EH, HE), only spring report. Red-thr Loon: one, Dec 8, Tomh Res (PPW) late. Horned Grebe: remained in numbers on Sar L to Dec 8 (B-S); first spring, Mar 21, NWW (PPW). Pied-billed Grebe: arrived in marked wave third week in

Mar, first Mar 20, Lock 6, Sch (BRS). Canada Goose: last a flock of 48, Tomh Res, Dec 8 (RPY, PPW); first arrivals at Stockport and SCR Mar 8 with slow increase thereafter. **Snow Goose**: late fall records as follows: two, Sar L, Dec 8 (WBS, B-S); one, Tomh Res, Dec 8 (RPY, PPW); one, Guilderland Center, Dec 15 (B-S). Gadwall: two appeared at SCR Mar 25 (B-H), an early record. American Widgeon: first reports Mar 8, Lock 6, Sch (BRS) and Stockport (PPW). Pintail: a female appeared on the Hudson R above Troy Feb 15 (PPW); migrants appeared in a marked wave Mar 7-8 in many areas. Green-w Teal: first Mar 8, Stockport (PPW) and in many areas by Mar 15. Blue-w Teal: reported early at SCR Mar 14 (B-S-H) and Cocksackie Mar 15 (JHB) but only a few in area by end of period. Wood Duck: first Mar 16, Castleton (JC); a marked influx Mar 24-26. Redhead: two appeared at SCR Mar 25 and remained to end of period (B-S-H) the only report. Ring-necked Duck: remained at Sar L to Dec 8 (BS); first spring migrants appeared Mar 8, Stockport (PPW, TB, AB). Canvasback: up to 45 were at Sar L to Dec 8 (B-S); only spring reports, four, Stockport Mar 8 (PPW) and six, Mohawk R Mar 29 (B-S-H). Scaup: up to 70 were at Sar L to Dec. 8 (B-S); first spring reports Mar 14-16, with larger numbers appearing after Mar 25. Com Goldeneye: a flock of 22 was on the Hudson R above Troy Jan 18 (SBC); with the advent of warmer Feb weather, there were 125 in that area Feb 15 (PPW); reported throughout region in Mar. Bufflehead: first reported Mar 23, Emboght (JHB), with only three spring reports in period; Last Dec 8, Sar L (B-S) and Tomh Res (PPW). Oldsquaw: last, nine, Dec 8, Sar L (B-S); no spring reports in Mar. Scoters: no reports. Ruddy Duck: last one, Dec 8, Sar L (B-S); first, SC Res, Mar 25 (B-H). Hooded Merganser: last Dec 8, Sar L (BS) and Tomh Res (PPW); first spring migrants Mar 13, NWW (EH) and Mar 14 in several areas. Com Merganser: only one present this winter on the upper Hudson R (SBC). Migrants appeared at Stockport and the Mohawk R Mar 8 (PPW, et al). Red-br Merganser: remained at Sar L in good numbers to Dec 8 (BRS); first Mar 14, NWW (PPW, JF).

Hawks — Owls: Turkey Vulture: a vagrant was observed Jan 5 at Chatham (EMR) — an unusual date; first migrants Mar 1-2, Greene Co (DB, WS). Goshawk: reported Jan 5, nr Round L (B-S-H); Jan 18, nr Rexford (SBC); Mar 1, Canaan (JP, EP); and Mar 14, Niskayuna (BRS). Sharp-shinned Hawk: five reports during the period. Cooper's Hawk: four reports during the period. Red-tailed Hawk: more prevalent than last winter, numbers increasing in the latter part of the period. Red-shouldered Hawk: at least seven reports during period, with no apparent influx in Mar. **Broad-w Hawk**: two very early reports — one Mar 14, SCRes and one Mar 29, along the Mohawk R (B-S-H). Rough-legged Hawk: reported regularly throughout period to Mar 21 (SBC); more than in previous winter, max 7, Feb 15, Meadowdale (BRS). **Bald Eagle**: an immature was at Sar L Dec 1 (BS, EH) and was observed at close range. This was the **only** record of the species in Region 8 in 1963. Marsh Hawk: probable wintering individuals were reported at Old Chatham, Castleton, Livingston, and Albany Airport; first migrant, Mar 14, Meadowdale (PPW, JF). Sparrow Hawk: very few in early winter, with only nine reported in four Christmas Counts, Dec 21-28; notable increase in Feb and Mar. Bob-white: at least six were still at Meadowdale Mar 14 (PPW, JF) and some were still at Athens Jan 20 (JHB, BB). Wild Turkey: reported irregularly from Greene and western Albany Cos. Killdeer: last Tomh Res Dec 8 (PPW); early migrants Mar 5, Castleton (PPW) and Rotterdam Junction (RPY). Woodcock: first spring migrants Mar 14 at Palenville (JH) and Niskayuna (EH). Com Snipe: one wintering at Meadowdale was shot about Feb 1; first migrants appeared Mar 20, Palenville (JH) and Mar 22, Meadowdale (B-S-H). **Iceland Gull**: one was at Niska Isle, Mohawk R, Mar 25 (B-H); this second-year individual was seen standing on the ice and in flight. Great Black-backed Gull: first recorded nr Castleton Mar 6, when 20 were observed (PPW); most observers reported a decrease in numbers after the initial appearance of gulls in the Region, although about 40 were seen in a large group of gulls feeding on stranded fish at Niskayuna Mar 24 (RW). Herring Gull: none reported on area

Christmas Counts. With the onset of somewhat milder weather in mid-Jan, five were reported over Colonie Jan 23 (JH) and eleven were at Albany Feb 5-6 (PPW) when the Hudson was (briefly) open there. Colder weather forced most of these out, although one was on the Hudson R north of Troy Feb 15, and several remained at Castleton all month (JC). The first wave of migration was reported Mar 5 (PPW) with the species widespread by Mar 10. Ring-billed Gull: reported throughout the winter at Castleton (JC) but otherwise not reported until Mar 8 (BRS, PPW). Numbers increased rapidly the latter half of Mar. Screech Owl: very few reported. Great Horned Owl: status about as usual. Snowy Owl: four reports in Dec, including individuals at New Scotland (MK), Reidsville (MK), Dolgeville (fide WBS) and at a high school in downtown Schenectady (SBC). Only other record, one nr Rexford Feb 1 (BRS). Barred Owl: individuals reported at Hudson (TB, AB), Lisha Kill (BRS) and Purling (CK). **Saw-whet Owl**: one was at New Concord Jan 29 (ER) for the only record of the period.

Goatsuckers — Shrikes: Belted Kingfisher: reported from Canaan, Cohoes and Sch during the winter; first migrant Mar 22, Wicks (B-S-H). Flicker: reported from Red Rock, Old Chatham, Kiskatom, Sch (2) and Melrose during the winter. One of the two in Sch was found to be a **hybrid Red-Yellow-shafted Flicker** when it was trapped and banded Dec 22 (RPY). The tail feather shafts of this bird were partly dark red and partly salmon, but in other respects the bird resembled a Yellow-shafted Flicker. Pileated Woodpecker: regular in several areas. Yel-bellied Sapsucker: one appeared in Sch at a feeder until Jan 15 (RPY). Phoebe: first migrants Mar 17, Catskill (JHB, BB) and Mar 21, New Concord (ER). Horned Lark: considerably smaller flocks than last winter. Tree Swallow: first Mar 15, Rotterdam (B-S-H), more generally at end of period. Boreal Chickadee: one appeared in Sch Dec 21 (SBC) and was banded Dec 22 (RPY). no other reports. Tufted Titmouse: many reports, still increasing. Winter Wren: two reports; one, Chatham, Dec 7 and Jan 6 (P. Mickle) and two, Durham, Dec 22 (GCBC). Mockingbird: reported from Ghent (PE, GE) and Latham (B. Hicks) during Jan and Feb and from four areas in Colu Co during Mar (ADBC). Catbird: one was at Spencertown to Jan 14 (F. Woodward) and one in Troy during Jan. (fide PPW). Brown Thrasher: one Jan 18, Ghent (PE, GE). Robin: more widespread and numerous than usual this winter, with flocks of up to 40 reported. Hermit Thrush: one at Tomh Res Dec 28, TCC the only record. **Swainson's Thrush**: one at Lock 7 Jan 17 was observed in good light and described convincingly (RW). The bird was observed in the same location as that in which a late migrant of this species was seen in the last period. Bluebird: six wintered at Ghent (PE, GE); other winter reports were from Meadowdale, Catskill, Mariaville and Dormansville. First spring report Mar 5, Luther (J. Alexander) with many others after Dec. Golden-cr Kinglet: rare this winter, with only two reports after Dec. Ruby-cr Kinglet: reported from Tomh Res Dec 8 (PPW), Sch Dec 21 (SBC), Catskill Jan 8 (JHB, BB) and Ghent Feb 26 (PE, GE). One was at a Niskayuna feeder Feb 15-29 (HE). Cedar Waxwing: few reports during winter; migrants appeared Mar 14 and during the succeeding week with some areas reporting 50-100 birds. Shrikes: a Migrant Shrike remained nr Round L throughout the winter (B-S-H). Northern Shrikes were reported from New Concord Feb 10 (ER) and Catskill Dec 28 (GCBC). Other shrikes (sp) were reported from Meadowdale Mar 28 (B-S-H) and Westerlo Dec 17 (MK); they seem very scarce.

Vireos — Sparrows: Myrtle Warbler: One appeared at a Loudonville feeder Dec 26-Jan 13 (MWF) and another was at a Catskill feeder Dec 26-Jan 5 (E. Rusack). Another observed at Catskill Mar 3 (CK) may have been that at the Catskill feeder earlier in the winter. **Bay-breasted Warbler**: one was seen sitting in a small tree in Schodack on the remarkable date of Dec 14 (LB). Some chestnut on the flanks of this bird as well as wing-bars, back-stripping and the greenish color was noted. Meadowlark: reported all winter, with migrants appearing in mid-Mar. Redwing: a few reported

throughout winter. Returning migrants appeared Mar 5 in large flocks at Castleton (PPW) and Guilderland (RPY), and widely by Mar 7. Baltimore Oriole: one was at Sch Dec 22 (SBC) at a feeder, and another was at a Loudonville feeder in mid-Dec for a few days (Mrs. O'Meara). One was reported from Castleton Dec 7 (JC). Rusty Blackbird: several winter reports, but only two in Mar, when flocks usually noted. Grackle: several wintered at widely scattered location. Returning groups noted at Delmar, Castleton and Guilderland Mar 5 (DE, RPY, PPW) and widely in the next few days. Cowbird: many wintered; returning individuals noted after Mar 2 (JHB). Dickcissel: two were found dead in Colu Co, one Dec 15, Ghent (PE, GE) and one Jan 14, Chatham (E. LaPointe). Evening Grosbeak: common this winter, with high counts of 199 and 339 Dec 21 and 28, SCC and TCC respectively. Although numbers seemed to decrease in late Feb and early Mar, late Mar saw an influx of additional birds. In one feeding station at Sch, 128 were banded during Dec-Apr 13 (RPY). Purple Finch: very few reported from most areas, with no evidence of a return movement in Mar, max 25 Feb 20 Colonie (RW). Pine Grosbeak: present in many areas after Dec 20 through early part of winter, mainly in small groups, max 109 Jan 15 Mariaville (BRS); fewer in Mar, last Mar 15 Mariaville (B-S-H). Redpoll: reported throughout the winter in small flocks, more common late Feb to mid-Mar, last Mar 22 (BRS). Pine Siskin: reported regularly throughout winter. Red Crossbill: the most widespread invasion in years, with small groups reported throughout the region, and remaining past the end of the period, max 37 TCC Dec 28. White-w Crossbill: also reported in several areas early in period, but disappeared in late Jan, last Feb 1 Colonie (JF), max 25 Dec 13 Westerlo (MK). Towhee: two reports, one Jan 7 Cairo Junction (N. Bondy) and one Feb 13 Loudonville (MWF). Savannah Sparrow: one was at Meadowdale Dec 15 (B-S) and four were recorded Dec 28, TCC. Vesper Sparrow: one recorded occasionally during winter at Schodack (LB); others reported Dec 7, Ghent (PE, GE); Dec 25, Meadowdale (B-S); Jan 25, Vischer Ferry (B-S). Slate-colored Junco: wintered in larger numbers than usual, max 268 Dec 21 SCC and 355 Dec 28 GCC. Oregon Junco: at least four well-identified birds were reported as follows: one Dec 18-22, Sch (Guy Bartlett); one Dec 19 Scotia (EH); one Jan 11-13 Colonie (JF) and one at Loudonville Dec 26-27, Jan 2 and 14-17 (MWF). Tree Sparrow: also wintered in high numbers, max 880 SCC Dec 21. Chipping Sparrow: one was at a feeder in Sch during Dec (SBC). Field Sparrow: 1-6 were seen in Colonie Jan 1-Feb 22 (JF). White-cr Sparrow: two of this species were reported in Dec — an adult at Troy (PPW et al.) and an imm at Castleton (JC). In Jan another appeared in Colu Co (ADBC) and still a fourth was located nr Tomh Res (RPY). These or others were then reported throughout the period into Mar. The previous rarity of the species in winter in Region 8 may be illustrated in that it had never previously been recorded in either the TCC or SCC, despite the fact that the latter has been conducted for 35 years. White-thr Sparrow: unusually large numbers reported wintering, max 11 TCC Dec 28. Fox Sparrow: several lingered into late Dec, and one was reported at Clarksville Jan 15 (MK). Returning individuals were noted Mar 10 and thereafter in good numbers. Swamp Sparrow: a few individuals were reported into Jan. No return migration noted in period. Lapland Longspur: a few reported, in groups of 1-10, Dec 14 (B-S) — Mar 18 (LB). Snow Bunting: reported throughout period to Mar 21 (SBC), max 500 Jan 15 Mariaville (BRS); considered scarce by most observers.

Box 465A, RFD #4, Troy

REGION 9 — DELAWARE - HUDSON

EDWARD D. TREACY

It was a close to normal winter in the Hudson-Delaware region. Temperatures were mild when compared to those of recent years. This is the first year that your reporter can remember that the lower Hudson River failed to freeze solid, although it was often choked with floes. Snow was in fair amount with a number of light falls, and as much as twelve inches deposited on Jan 13. Ten inches were deposited on Feb 19. The month of March was free of snow throughout much of the region. The first week of March brought warm weather and the first migrants. To date the spring migration has been largely on time with no spectacular changes.

Birding was also average, with no great changes. There was a good influx of some northern species, but most were to be expected. The cone and seed crop was good to excellent for most plants.

Contributors: WBC — Waterman Bird Club, RA — Robert Arbib, BA — Bob Augustine, ID — Iris Dean, RD — Mr. & Mrs. Robert F. Deed, BD — Betty Devels, JD — Mr. & Mrs. John Dye, EE — Eugene Eisemann, PG — Pat Garthwaite, SG — Stanley Grierson, TH — Thelma Haight, MH — Dr. Marjorie Hopper, FH — Fred Hough, MI — Mort Isler, AJ — Alice Jones, JK — J. Kerner, MK — Mary Key, FK — Fran Kniep, JL — Jack LeMaire, ML — Mabel Little, KN — Ken Niven, HP — Hugh Pembleton, AP — Alma Polhemus, FS — Mr. & Mrs. Frank Steffens, WS — W. Strauss, SU — Sarah Uyehlyhi, MV — Marion Van Wagner, TW — Mr. & Mrs. Tom Wilfred, B W — Barbara Whitcomb.

Abbreviations: Arr — Arrived; Counties — first four letters; Is — Island; imm — immature; Jet — Junction; L — Lake; Res — reservation or reservoir; Sanct — Sanctuary.

Loons — Ducks: Open water allowed many waterfowl species to linger longer than usual this winter, and the early thaw allowed an early return for most. The tenth annual waterfowl count in Jan produced the largest number of species (seventeen), and the third highest number of individuals (2,082). Common Loon: two reported on the Hudson; one at Poughkeepsie on Dec 29, and another at Ft. Montgomery on Dec 28. Migrants began arriving in the Middletown area on Mar 7, and were heard calling to the end of the period. Mr. and Mrs. Bruce North plan to keep a careful watch for nesting evidence which becomes increasingly improbable. **Red-throated Loon:** This very rare transient was found Dec 9 at Stissing L, Pine Plains (PG, AJ). **Pied-billed Grebe:** A few winter records; first migrant at Basher Kill, Sull on Mar 15, and regular thereafter. **Great Blue Heron:** Several winter records. Migrants appeared in the usual places about the third week in March. **Black-crowned Night Heron:** Rock had its second winter record, again on a Christmas Count, when one bird was found below the L DeForest Dam (TW). **Mute Swan:** A peak count of 68 on the Rock Lakes about Congers on Dec 1 (FS). **Whistling Swan:** One imm identified on Tomahawk L, Oran on Dec 1 & 2 (BW). **Canada Goose:** About 40 birds wintered in West. First migrants appeared in Dutch on Feb 27 & 29. Bulk of migrants reported from most areas about Mar 14. **Gadwall:** An extremely rare bird in our area. Rock had its fifth record of one bird at Rock L on Dec 14 (MI). Dutch had its first record in more than 20 years with a pair at Crugers Is (MK, AJ). **Pintail:** Also an uncommon visitor; Dutch had two or three wintering at Pine Plains; Rock and West reported migrants in Mar and Oran had several dozen birds in the Goshen area from Mar thru April. **Green-w Teal:** Last fall birds reported from Dutch on Dec 2. Waterfowl count produced eight in Jan, and migrants were passing north on Mar 7 in Dutch and Mar 18 in Oran. **Blue-w Teal:** No winter records, first migrants Mar 24 at Crugers Is. Numbers appear to be good at this writing. **Widgeon:** A hybrid of the American and European species spent its third winter in Hawthorne, West, and was well photographed by many observers. **Shoveler:** Two birds on Rock L Dec 14 made the third record for that county (MI). This species was reported in Oran during Mar

at Goshen, and was still present at this writing. This is the first record for the county in modern times. Wood Duck: Very few reports during winter. First migrants in mid-Mar. Heavy movement throughout region after that. Redhead: Always rare; six on L DeForest Mar 15 (MH, AP). Ring-neck Duck: Numbers down during winter, but migration numbers up during Mar and Apr. Canvasback: So abundantly reported in migration only a few years ago, now seriously low on the Hudson flyway. Bufflehead: More numerous than usual on the Rock Christmas count, with 26 in view at Piermont Pier. None reported anywhere on Waterfowl Count in Jan. Usual migrants during Mar. Oldsquaw: One at Piermont Pier Dec 28 (RD). Hooded Merganser: Many winter reports; heavy migration in late Mar. Red-breasted Merganser: Three Mar 14 on the Hudson in Dutch (MV, MK).

Hawks — Owls: Turkey Vulture: Most returned in mid-Mar, but single reports were made from Dutch on Feb 29, and from West on Feb 9. As many as 75 birds were reported at the Queensboro roost in Bear Mt. Park in late Mar (HP). Goshawk: One reported from Rio Res, Sull, Dec 28 (JK). Sharp-shinned Hawk: None reported. Coopers Hawk: Only two reports, one from Dutch, and the other from Sull. Both were in Feb. Red-tailed Hawk: Scarce all winter. Reported on the nest on Mar 15 in Dutch. Red-shouldered Hawk: More scarce than the previous species. Only one wintering record, several March migrants reported. **Broad-winged Hawk:** Very late date of Dec 22 over Rye, West (EE), and Dec 23 over Hawthorne (BA). Probably the same bird. Rough-legged Hawk: Although Dutch reports them as scarce, at least three reports per month from that county seems fairly good to your reporter. Reports of wintering birds came from each county, and in all showed one of the best seasons for the species. Bald Eagle: Numbers better than for the past few years, but still very low. As many immatures reported as adults, a hopeful sign. Marsh Hawk: One over Greenville, Oran Dec 30 (ID); three birds in Dutch: one at Thompson Pond on Dec 28 (TH), one Mar 3 (MK), and one Mar 16 at Hyde Park (AJ). Sparrow Hawk: Quite scarce; first migrants second week of Mar, numbers up at the close of the period. Ruffed Grouse: Numbers excellent, about the same as last year. Bobwhite: Six birds at Mt. Airy, near Newburgh on Jan 16. A pair of birds at a feeder throughout the winter in Stissing, Dutch, and covies of five or six in three different locations in the northeast corner of that county. Coot: Good wintering numbers in West, but very scarce or absent elsewhere. Killdeer: Two wintered in Dutch near Poughkeepsie, with the first migrants noted Mar 3. Woodcock: First reports during first week of Mar. Numbers seem to be normal. Common Snipe: An interesting report of a bird found in a muskrat trap and released after amputation of a leg on Dec 6. Bird appeared well and active (KN). **White-winged Gulls:** A Glaucous Gull was observed at Croton Pt. West on Jan 4 and again Mar 7 (BA, PS). Two Iceland Gulls were also observed there on Jan 4 (BA). This latter species was also observed at the Beacon city dump throughout most of the month of Feb (OW). Ring-billed Gull: Absent from Dutch, during the winter, but apparently normal elsewhere. Numbers are good along the Hudson this spring. Mourning Dove: Normal throughout most of region, but reported in record numbers from Rock. Barn Owl: Rock had its third record in recent years when one turned up on the Christmas count, Dec 28 (JM). Screech Owl: One observed in a Kestrel nest box at Tri-Loba Sanct, Katonah, West on Feb 7; and was heard calling on Feb 29 (SG). Paul Jeheber reports "one for the books" when on Feb 9 a work crew at West Point cut down a tree, cut it into sections, and were preparing to burn them when they noted a Screech Owl in a hole in one of the logs. They took him out and released him. Great Horned Owl: Reported from most areas, no change in numbers. Snowy Owl: One reported from Rock during the month of Feb; another from West at New Rochelle on Dec 7; and three from Dutch: one at Vassar College Dec 10, another at Clinton Corners Jan 18, and the third at Salt Point on Feb 12. Barred Owl: One reported killed by a car at Cross River, West on Feb 2. Long-eared Owl: Only reports from Dutch with a bird at Poughkeepsie from Jan 15-17 (WBC), and three at Croton Point from Feb 2 (RA) to Mar 7 (BA). Saw-whet Owl: Only report that of a bird killed by a car at Katonah on Feb 11.

Goatsuckers — Shrikes: Flicker: Wintering birds reported from most regions; numbers were especially good in Dutch. Pileated Woodpecker: The usual reports, numbers being maintained. Margaret Dye reports a bird visiting suet feeders in the Cornwall area; suspects possibly more than one. Red-headed Woodpecker: Several reported from Dutch and Oran, and one reported from Sull. Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: More winter reports than usual. Black-backed Woodpecker: One report, that of a bird in the White Plains area Mar 24-28. Phoebe: Dutch reported birds of this species on Dec 29 and Feb 24 at Hopewell Jct (AJ, PG). One was at Carmel, Putn on Feb 29 (ML). The rest arrived on schedule in mid-March, and the numbers were good to the end of the period. Horned Lark: Scarce in Dutch, but normal elsewhere. Rock had good numbers throughout the season. Tree Swallow: Arr as usual in mid-Mar. **Gray Jay:** One from Nov 26-Dec 15 and again in Feb at Bowman's Farm, Clinton Corners, Dutch. May be the same bird reported last autumn in this column although location was some 15 miles away (WBC). Blue Jay: Normal winter population. Black-capped Chickadee: Normal. Boreal Chickadee: Good wintering reports; one arrived at West Park, Ulst on Dec 9 and remained thru the season. Three spent the winter in the Hawthorne area of West; and the same number were found at Moore's Mills, Dutch from Mar 16-21, the same area where they were found in 1962. A single bird was reported in the Sackett L area of Sull on Dec 28. Tufted Titmouse: Numbers increasing in the northern counties. Red-breasted Nuthatch: An exceptional year for this species. One wintered on the grounds of the Middletown State Hosp. Six were found on Dec 28 in Sull (JK). Dutch turned up three in Dec, four in Jan, one in Feb and three in Mar. Oran & West produced one bird each in Jan. Winter Wren: Numbers down; only two reports. Carolina Wren: Numbers down, but widely scattered birds appeared to come through the winter well. Mimids: Catbirds and Thrashers were reported as usual to slightly better. Mockingbirds continue their increase with several reports from the northern counties, and from 10 to 20 birds evident in Dutch. Thrushes: A little better than the usual reports of wintering Robins, Hermits and Bluebirds. March migrants were arriving on time. Golden-crowned Kinglet: Less than the usual population. Rock missed them entirely on their Christmas count. **Bohemian Waxwing:** At Kripplebush, Ulst on Mar 15, about a dozen working over dried-up crab apples. Observed at very close range (FH). Cedar Waxwings: Numbers reduced in the southern counties. None reported all season from Oran, and missed on the Rock Christmas count. Northern Shrike: Four reports from Dutch spanning Dec 15-Mar 11. One report from Sull on Mar 4.

Vireos — Sparrows: Myrtle Warbler: Reported five times in Dutch from Dec 13-Feb 10. One each time. Only other report from Ulst at New Paltz. Red-w Blackbird: First noticeable wave Mar 7 throughout region. Abundant after Mar 13. Wintered sparingly. Baltimore Oriole: Only winter reports from West (No details). Rusty Blackbird: Fewer reported wintering in West than usual. Single birds reported in Dec, Jan and Feb in Dutch, with 13 reported on Mar 5. Several Oran records, but all in Mar at Cornwall. Rock had one Jan report, and two in Feb. Cardinal: Numbers appear to be stabilizing in all counties but Sull where they are increasing. More this winter at feeders than ever before. **Blue Grosbeak:** "A bird fitting the description of this species (male was seen in Pleasantville Feb 9 by Mrs. J. Duble," (BA). Dickcissel: Four on the Rockland Christmas Count, and one all winter at a feeder in New City (FS). Two more wintered at Stone Ridge Ulst at the feeder of Mrs Howard Van Winkle (FH). Evening Grosbeak: Population good throughout the season with many flocks, but small numbers in each. Continued to the end of the period. Purple Finch: Rock reports them in good numbers, but other counties show them to be low. House Finch: Returned to the feeding stations frequented last year, and spread to Oran and Dutch. Pine Grosbeak: Reported from all counties, but numbers low everywhere except Dutch where 40-50 were found Dec 31 and Jan 1, and five reports in Feb totaled 25 birds. Common Redpoll: Very scarce, largest flock about 100 on Old Storm King Road, Cornwall (JD). Pine Siskin: Most people cannot remember when we've had so many before. The large flocks of the fall continued into the winter, but were much smaller

toward the end of the season. Goldfinch: Numbers good in all counties. **Red Crossbill:** This rare and irregular winter visitor appeared several times in the region. Twelve were reported during Feb, and five on Mar 11 in Dutch. Three were at Bear Mt. Rock on Jan 3, and a small flock in Nyack on Jan 8. One bird was found in Somers, West on Jan 29, and five were there on Feb 1. **White-winged Crossbill:** More common than the former but still rare, this species made a good appearance. Reported in small flocks from every county in each month of the season. **Towhee:** The usual wintering reports. **Savannah Sparrow:** Wintered in the Chester area from Jan 18 thru early Mar (SU). **Vesper Sparrow:** Five or six wintered in the Hawthorne area of West, and three were reported from Dutch. Two of the latter were found in Mar, and one on the Christmas count. **Oregon Junco:** Three reports: one on Dec 28 at Monticello (KN); another male wintered again near Pine Plains (BD); and the third spent the winter at Cornwall (JD). **Tree Sparrow:** Normal to good winter population. **Field Sparrow:** One wintered at Middletown (FK). **White-crowned Sparrow:** Unusual wintering reported from Dutch. Five birds at Amenia during Jan and Feb (WS). A single bird was reported Jan 1 at Pine Plains (TH). **White-throated Sparrow:** Nothing unusual. **Fox Sparrow:** The usual wintering birds; a very good Mar movement. **Snow Bunting:** A few winter records. One at Carmel, Putn on Jan 18 (ML); ten or twenty at Dutch Co. Airport in Feb (AJ); and "a large flock" at Granville, Oran on Mar 2 and 3 (ID).

Pellwood Lake, Highland Falls

REGION 10 — MARINE

PETER W. POST AND GUY A. TUDOR

In general the winter season was characterized by colder than average temperatures during December, warmer than average temperatures during January and temperatures during February that were only slightly below normal. The major feature of these three months, however, was the excessive amount of snow: 11.3 inches, 13.3 inches, and 8.8 inches during December, January and February, respectively.

The combined total of the 11 Christmas Counts which were taken wholly within Region 10, was 158 species (not including several additional species present during the count period). Four of these counts recorded 100 or more species, the "big three" being Central Suffolk, Southern Nassau, and Bronx-Southern Westchester, with 119, 122, and 123 species, respectively. It would be of great interest if some of these counts could be repeated during late January or February when migration is at a standstill and most of the "half-hardy" species have disappeared because of the severe weather, and/or diminishing food supply. In most cases we have tried not to utilize data from the Christmas Counts, but a certain amount of overlap is inevitable. As a rule, we have included this information when it involves either late records or unusual species, and in those certain cases where we have tried to document the widespread distribution of a particular species.

Temperatures for March were above normal with mild weather dominating much of the month. There were three periods of springlike conditions, from the 1st to the 10th with the temperature in NYC climbing to 71 degrees on the 5th; from the 13th to the 17th; and from the 23rd to the 26th with the temperature reaching 75 degrees on the 25th. Movements of migrants into the region coincided with these warm periods. The first warm period brought in numbers of Wood Ducks, Fox Sparrows and Song Sparrows. Piping Plovers and more Sparrows arrived during the second period. The last spell produced a widespread flight of Flickers, Phoebe's, Golden-crowned Kinglets and a few Pine Warblers.

Practically every winter produces a number of species which ordinarily winter well to the south of our region (several of which rarely winter in the United States!). Some of these (Pigeon Hawk, Turnstone, Sapsucker, House Wren, Baltimore Oriole, Chipping Sparrow and White-crowned Sparrow) have been occurring with fair regularity in recent years; others occur less regularly (Blue-winged Teal, Sora, Knot, Jaegers, Short-billed Marsh Wren, Orange-crowned Warbler and Yellowthroat); while still others (Glossy Ibis, Least Bittern, Broad-winged Hawk, Rose-breasted and Blue Grosbeaks, Dickcissel, Grasshopper, Henslow's and Lincoln's Sparrows) have only been recorded a few times previously or never before in winter. All of the above mentioned species were recorded during the current period.

The most notable finds of the season were Ivory Gull, Bullock's Oriole and Varied Thrush. Other rarities included Lesser Black-backed, Black-headed and Little Gulls, Black-backed Three-toed and Red-bellied Woodpeckers, Oregon Juncos, and Black Guillemots.

Abbreviations used: Max — maximum one day count during the period; mob — many observers; AMNH — American Museum of Natural History; LLASB — Lyman Langdon Audubon Society Bulletin; CC — Christmas Count; JBWR — Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge; in the following locations only the first word is used — Jones Beach, Pelham Bay Park, and Riis Park.

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Note: Unless a specific number is indicated, all records refer to single birds.

Loons — Ducks: Red-throated Loon: max 50, Jan 26, Montauk (RS). Red-necked Grebe: nine reports, Dec 28 to Feb 9 and Mar 28 — Montauk to Riis. Great Cormorant: max 17, Jan 22, Pelham (WN) — high count for this location; max 10, Jan 18, Montauk (GR); migrants — two, Mar 21, Jones (KM); Mar 28, Tobay Beach (PB, WN). Common Egret: max 15, Mar 28, Tobay (WN, PB). Snowy Egret: Dec 21, JBWR (FE); Dec 26, East Moriches (P. Stoutenburgh *fide* GR); Dec 29, Freeport (CW, T. Lomand) — only one previous record as late as these; Mar 14, Tobay (TD, LM, FH) — arrival; max 40, Mar 28, Tobay (WN, PB). Least Bittern: Jan 26, Carmen's River (DP) — found dead in fresh condition, second winter record. Glossy Ibis: one remained at JBWR until about Dec 14 (HJ) — only winter record.

Whistling Swan: Nov 30-Dec 10, Tobay (mob); one to six, Jan 8-25, Yaphank (DP, AV). Snow Goose: five, Dec 21-23, Riis (mob); wintering singles at Millneck (LLASB) and Southhaven (mob). Gadwall: sample max counts: 130, Jan 11, Wantaugh (GR) 52, Jan 11, Patchogue (GR); 44, Jan 11, Bellmont Lake (GR). Blue-winged Teal: Dec 29, Hemstead (AW, D. Heilburn). European Widgeon: good year; Dec 22, Wantaugh (OH); Jan 12, Hook Pond (RF, RP); pair, Jan 28-Feb 8, Baisley Pond (mob); Feb 22, Mecox (RF, RP); Feb 22-Mar 21, Brookville (mob); Mar 22, Baldwin (KM). Canvasback: max counts: 300, Dec 7, Southhaven (GR); 570, Mar 1, Jerome Reservoir (FE). Lesser Scaup: for several years large numbers of this species have been known to winter on the Hudson River in the vicinity of

Fort Washington Park; two counts taken during period totaled 245 and 400 on Dec 21 and Feb 23 respectively (PP); max counts on Jerome Reservoir: 56, Jan 20 and 140, Mar 8 (FE). Common Goldeneye: Max 2210, Dec 28, Heckscher (FH). Bufflehead: max counts; 600, Dec 22, Clason Point (NB, PP); 300, Dec 28, Shinnecock (GR); 360 Mar 28, JBWR (FE) — greatly increased in past five years. Harlequin Duck: up to five birds (four males, one female), Dec 29-Mar 6, Point Lookout (mob) — third consecutive winter Harlequins have been found here; three females, Jan 11-12, Shinnecock (RP, RF); female, Jan 18-26, Montauk (mob). An excellent year for Eiders. Common Eider: wintered at Montauk with max counts of 66, Jan 18 (GR) and 100, Jan 26 (RS); two, Jan 4, Orient (GR); small flocks of up to seven were reported from five localities between Jones and Moriches Inlets, Dec 26-29 — formerly very rare away from Montauk. King Eider: wintered at Montauk with max count of 36, Jan 5 (RF, MG); Dec 2, Tobay Beach (GT); 14, Dec 29, Jones Inlet, (NB, PB); three, Jan 4, Orient (GR). Seven unidentified Eiders migrated past Tobey Beach, Mar 28 (WN, PB). Scoters: ratio of white-winged to Black to Surf, 2500:650:150, Montauk, Jan 5 (MG). Hooded Merganser: max 98, Dec 1, Quogue (HP, EG). Common Merganser: 70, Mar 23, JBWR — only two on Mar 28 (FE).

Hawks — Owls: Accipters continue to decline; only three reports received of Sharp-shinned all winter. Red-shouldered Hawk: one to two, Jan 4-Mar 28, Lawrence (RC) — one of these was feeding on a Clapper Rail on Feb 15; uncommon on south shore. Broad-winged Hawk: Dec 22, Rye (CW, EL); Dec 26, Mastic (W. Nichols, D. Weld fide GR) — both adults in direct size comparison with crows. Kough-legged Hawk: excellent year; at least 40 individuals recorded throughout the region; up to four in sight at once on Jan 2, Oakbeach (MK). Out of 18 birds in which the plumage was noted, seven were in the dark phase. Bald Eagle: adult, Dec 26, Mastic (W. Nichols, D. Weld fide GR); immature, Feb 5, Southaven (GR, DP). Pigeon Hawk: birds in female or immature plumage unless otherwise noted; Dec 1-Mar 28, Jones (mob); adult male, Dec 22, New Rochelle (IC, HH); Dec 26, Calverton (GR); Jan 5, Westhampton (MG); Jan 26, Valley Stream (MG); Feb 22, Mecox (RF, RP) — formerly considered accidental in winter. Ruffed Grouse: "apparently at high point of cycle. Seen frequently at Manorville and Upton; max 12 together, Dec 22, Manorville and five, Jan 6, Upton" (GR); Dec 28, Deer Park (MG). King Rail: Dec 26, Mastic (DP); Jan 1, Quogue (P. Puleston). Sora: Dec 29, Massapequa (JY, E. Simon). American Coot: 92, Mar 28, JBWR (FE).

Ruddy Turnstone: three, Dec 21, Staten Island CC; Dec 22, Clason Point (NB, PP); Dec 29-Mar 14, Short Beach (mob); Jan 18, Shinnecock (mob). American Woodcock: max nine, Dec 26, East Moriches (GR). Common Snipe: max 30, Jan 12, Mecox (GR) — 19 of these were feeding in one tight flock on open mud flat. Greater Yellow-legs: Jan 25, Lawrence (RC). Knot: Dec 29-Jan 19, Short Beach (PB, TD). Purple Sandpiper: max 300+, Feb 15, Short Beach (KM). Unidentified Jaegers: two, Dec 8, Jones Inlet (AD). Glaucous Gull: seven individuals reported throughout region, Dec 28 to end of period. Iceland Gull: many individuals reported; impossible to give exact or even approximate numbers because the birds are constantly moving about. As usual, peak numbers were reached in Mar during the return flight. Lesser Black-backed Gull: max 2500, Montauk Reservoir (GC, PB, JH) — an immature well observed: it matched perfectly specimens in the AMNH, and was markedly different from any of the specimens of the various Herring Gull races. Black-headed Gull: three, Dec 21, Upper and Lower N. Y. Bays (RH, E. Swayer); Feb 9, Riis, (TD). Laughing Gull: exceedingly rare in winter; large numbers usually remain until the first cold snap (about the third week in Dec) when there is a mass exodus; one or two are usually seen on the CC's, but not thereafter. Bonaparte's Gull: impressive numbers wintered in Jones Inlet, estimates running from 2000-3000 (mob) to as high as 10,000 birds on Feb 24 (AV). Little Gull: two adults, Feb 24, Jones Inlet (AV); thereafter one frequently seen to end of period (mob). Ivory Gull: Feb 13, Coney Island (RR) — an immature well observed both standing and in flight by an observer previously familiar with the species; first L. I. record in 30 years.

Razorbill: good year, nine individuals reported; Jan 10, Fisher's Island (H. Ferguson) to Feb 22, Montauk (HP, EG). Thick-billed Murre: Mar 25, Seaford — an oiled bird found alive; for details and photograph see *Newsday*, Mar 25, 1964. Dovekie: three reports from Montauk; Dec 14 (GT) to Feb 22 (HP, EG); Jan 5, Easthampton (RF) — found dead. Black Guillemot: Jan 26, Montauk (RS); three, Mar 23, Jones Inlet (SS) — winter plumage, swimming in inlet 50 yards from shore. In addition, there were four reports of unidentified large alcids. Barn Owl: Dec 26, East Moriches (P. Stoutenburgh, et al, *vide* GR); Jan 18, Montauk (GR, DP) — hunting in daylight; Feb 2-9, Jones Beach (mob). Snowy Owl: four to six, Dec 8-Mar 18, Jones Beach Strip (mob); Dec 7-8, New Rochelle (mob); Dec 26, Fire Island (A. Cooley, et al *vide* GR); Feb 3, Orient (RL); Feb 15, Shinnecock (LW); Feb 22-24, JBWR (mob). Long-eared and Short-eared Owls were well below normal. Barred Owl went unrecorded, and only five reports of Saw-whets were received.

Goatsuckers — Warblers: Red-bellied Woodpecker: Dec 21-Feb 14, Pelham (OH, et al); Dec 27-Feb 8, Commack (J. Ralston, EG, HP). Red-headed Woodpecker: Dec 22, New Rochelle (IC, HH). Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: three, Dec 8, Rockville Center (RH, et al); Dec 23, Ardsley (W. Hastings, E. Manning); Dec 29, Cold Spring Harbor (J. Murray *vide* AB). Black-backed Three-toed Woodpecker: male, Dec 16, Tackapausha (AV). Eastern Phoebe: Mar 8, Central Park (PP) — early. Purple Martin: male at nesting site, Mar 10, Center Moriches (K. Helms *vide* GR) — early. Tufted Titmouse: still an uncommon bird on L. I.; Nov 18-Dec 6, Sayville (WT); two, late Nov-early Dec, Centereach (WT); Dec 21, Seaford (GR); two, Dec 21, Brooklyn CC; two, Dec 27, Smithtown CC. House Wren: Dec 15, Pelham (SS). Short-billed Marsh Wren: Dec 10-26, Brookhaven (GR, DP). Varied Thrush: Dec 17-Jan 17, Bellport (GR, DP, et al) — immature male or female at feeder; well documented, including photographs in color (LM); first L. I. record since 1905. Northern Shrike: Dec 25, Roslyn (M., D. Nathanson *vide* AB); Jan 5, Montauk (MG). Loggerhead Shrike: Jan 18, Meadowbrook Parkway (CW). Orange-crowned Warbler: Dec 7, Tackapausha (AV). Yellow-throat: Dec 4, Bronx Park (DR).

Blackbirds — Sparrows: Baltimore Oriole: Dec 7, Mount Vernon (J. Copeland *vide* M. Cornwell); Dec 8, Jones (EL); Dec 18, Jones (AW); throughout Jan. Seaciff (E. Boyd *vide* LLASB); two, Jan, Easthampton (LW); Jan 23-Feb 12, Eastport (GR, LW, et al); two, latter half of Mar, Southampton (LW) — all except Jones Beach birds were at feeders. Bullock's Oriole: Dec 12-mid Mar, Eastport (LW, et al) — immature male at feeders; extremely well documented, banded and photographed in the hand (LW); second L. I. report. Cardinal: "Increasingly common at Orient, as many as seven in one group" (RL); about 20 wintering in Manhattan north of 155th St., 12 in one group (PP). Rose-breasted Grosbeak: male, Dec 1-21, Bronx Park (E. Edler *vide* RR). Blue Grosbeak: Dec 15, Jones (L. Garland) — convincing report by an observer previously familiar with the species both locally and in the south. The report specifically mentions the lateral tail-flicking that is characteristic of this species. To the best of our knowledge, none of the standard bird guides contains this behavioral information, although it has been noticed many times in the field by a number of experienced observers. Dickcissel: Dec 16, Scarsdale (K. Heffron *vide* M. Cornwell); Dec 22-23, Riverdale (PB); Dec 25-Jan 23, Freeport (CW); Dec 26-Feb 22, Eastport (LW, GR, et al); Dec 28, Shinnecock Hills (GR); Jan 1, Plandome (O. Dunning *vide* AB); Jan 16, Marine Parkway (H. McCauley); one wintered at Center Moriches (K. Helms *vide* GR) — all except one at feeders; only three or four previous winter records!

Evening Grosbeak: many large flocks at feeders throughout L.I.: i.e., 160, Feb 12, Eastport (LW); 150 banded, Blue Point (WT); 80, Dec 28, Bayard Cutting Arboretum (MK, JH, FH). Common Redpoll: Dec 8, Rye (RA); five reports totaling 23 individuals from Dec 27-29; 150, Dec 21, Riis (PB);

three, Jan 24, Clason Point (WN) — the 150 birds at Riis is the largest number recorded since the late Jan-late Mar flight in 1960, when as many as 3000+ were seen at Jones on Jan 24. Goldfinches and Pine Siskins occurred in much larger numbers than usual on L. I., throughout the period — for example, Alperin noted 700 Goldfinches and 175 Siskins at Captree on Dec 17, while Lanyon reported that 100 Siskins are still present at the end of the period at Huntington. With the coming of Dec the Crossbill invasion, which lasted throughout Nov, virtually came to a standstill; the population stabilizing in areas where an adequate supply of cones could be found. Generally both species were scarce or uncommon (particularly White-wings), except along Jones Beach strip and the extreme southwestern part of the L. I. pine barrens. This is well illustrated by the numbers of crossbills recorded on the various CC's. The two counts having the greatest concentration of birds were Southern Nassau (with 734 Reds and 50 White-wings) and Captree (with 357 Reds and 8 White-wings), while the remaining nine counts **combined** totaled only 149 Reds and 117 White-wings. Both species got progressively scarcer after Dec, although small numbers continued to be reported up to the end of the period.

Grasshopper Sparrow: Dec 29, Hewlett Harbor (K. Berlin, J. Glassberg, RS, RA) — at feeder. Henslow's Sparrow: Dec 27-Jan 1, Patchogue (WT, DP) — at feeder, apparently first winter record. Vesper Sparrow: "good late Dec flight. None were found after Jan 1 in the Manorville-Riverhead area although searched for" (GR) — max 25 (in one flock). Dec 26, Calverton (GR). Oregon Junco: adult males at feeders: Dec 27, Smithtown (H. Potter); Dec 28-29, Plandome (C. Burnett). Chipping Sparrow: Dec 22, Clason Point (NB); Jan 18, Eastport (TD) — at feeder. White-crowned Sparrow: Dec 7, Cold Spring Harbor (R. Houghton *vide* AB); Dec 7, Woodlawn Cemetery (GT, JH); Dec 21, Howard Beach (TD); two banded, Jan 12-Mar 16, Syosset (J. Taylor) — at feeder. Lincoln's Sparrow: Dec 22, Baychester (GT, JH) — extremely well observed; four previous winter records in recent years. Snow Bunting: max flock of 250 present at Short Beach from Jan 11-Mar 1 (mob).

Addendum: The following items should have been included in the Fall Report. Magnificent Frigatebird: Aug 20, Fisher's Island (G. Simmons *vide* H. Ferguson) — observer familiar with species from Florida and the Bahamas. European Teal: Nov 5, JBWR (SS, C. Young, J. Mayer). Mourning Warbler: Oct 9, Central Park (GC) — late.

Corrigendum: Corrections in Boldface. **Kingbird** 13(4):230, Shoveler: one pair also bred in 1963 at JBWR. **Kingbird** 13 (4):231, American Oystercatcher: one pair, Moriches (GR) — **three** eggs laid. **Kingbird** 14 (1):62, Boreal Chickadee: two, Nov 10, Grassy Sprain (S. Friedman).

Note: Please have spring reports in by Jun 7. Post, 575 W. 183 St., NYC 33; Tudor, 370 Riverside Drive, NYC 25.

ORNITHOLOGICAL LITERATURE

Naming the Birds at a Glance. By Lou Blachly & Randolph Jenks. Alfred A. Knopf, New York: 7½ x 4½ in., xvii + 331 pp., three identical color pattern guides. \$3.95.

In the book "Naming the Birds at a Glance", a new guide to the Eastern Land Birds of North America, the authors have presented a different approach to bird field identification. They have not used the regular order of the A.O.U. checklist but have placed the birds according to the features that are most noticeable in the field.

For size comparison, they use the House Sparrow, Robin and the Common Crow. At the illustration of each species, sizes are represented by three horizontal bars with a vertical crossbar, to give the relative length of the described specimen.

Another feature which sets this book apart from previous field guides, is the grouping together of birds which have specific color marks on identical places on the body.

The book is of pocket size and is divided into six sections, each of which has its own particular advantage for quickly placing an identification mark on the bird.

The first section covers the perching and other related birds and groups them, regardless of genus, according to common conspicuous color patterns. For quick reference the color pattern guide is placed in the front, the center and the rear of the book. An illustration of this method is shown in the solid chestnut or brown underparts of the Bay-breasted Warbler, Orchard Oriole and the Eastern Bluebird or the orange color on the Golden-crowned Kinglet, Amer. Redstart and Prothonotary Warbler.

The second section places identification marks on the woodpeckers, with size as the chief criteria, beginning with the Downy and ending with the Pileated.

In sections three and four, the soaring and skimming insect hunters are given in characteristic flight pictures, again with size as the guide, as are also the ground dwelling, chicken-like birds.

Owls have their place in the series, with or lack of ear tufts, as the identification mark.

Section six portrays excellently the marks of identification for crows, ravens and hawks. These are well shown with illustrations of both perched birds and the underwing and body patterns of flying birds.

At the end of the book, the authors have set aside two and one half pages in which the birds described are classified and arranged according to the 1957 edition of the A.O.U. checklist.

So far in this report on "Naming the Birds at a Glance", it has been highly recommended as a field guide for the novice and occasional bird

observer but this writer believes the experienced observer will find in this book many new and helpful suggestions in bird identification. — Alice E. Ulrich.

The Royal Birds. By Lillian Grace Paca. St. Martin's Press, New York. 6½ x 9½ in., xi + 164 pp., 90 line drawings by the author. \$7.50.

Ornithological authors have neglected the genus *Cygnus* and as a result much of the life history of the swan has remained unstudied and unwritten.

In telling the story of the swan, from the fossil remains in the chalky soil of the lower Cretaceous System up the present time, the author in her book, "The Royal Birds", names and describes in one volume the ten species of swans of the world, nine true wild birds and the semitame mute which is the familiar park swan the world over. This book was not written as a scientific textbook but was written with the purpose of giving good, reliable authoritative information about these interesting and romantic birds.

The book gives the information, that, out of the six continents, Africa only has no native swans. South America has two, The Black-necked Swan and the Cascoroba or goose-swan; North America has three, two of which the Whistling and the Trumpeter are native, and, one the introduced Mute of Europe; Australia has the Black Swan.

Aside from the semitame Mute Swan, Europe has the large Whooper, the smaller Bewick's and the Imutable which is restricted to the Baltic Coast; while Asia claims the Jankowski as its single swan.

In the book are narratives about each of the ten afore mentioned species, which include status as wild birds, characteristics, habitat, homelife, voice and range. These verbal descriptions are supplemented by penline drawings, very well done.

One chapter is devoted to tales of swan in legend, mythology, folklore and history, while another deals with the care and keeping of swans.

More than just furnishing authentic information about swans to the ornithologists, this book will be just as attractive to the booklover for its beauty in the exquisite drawings in which the author-artist has expressed every mood and pose of these Royal Birds. Every book collector will also want his copy.

Alice E. Ulrich.



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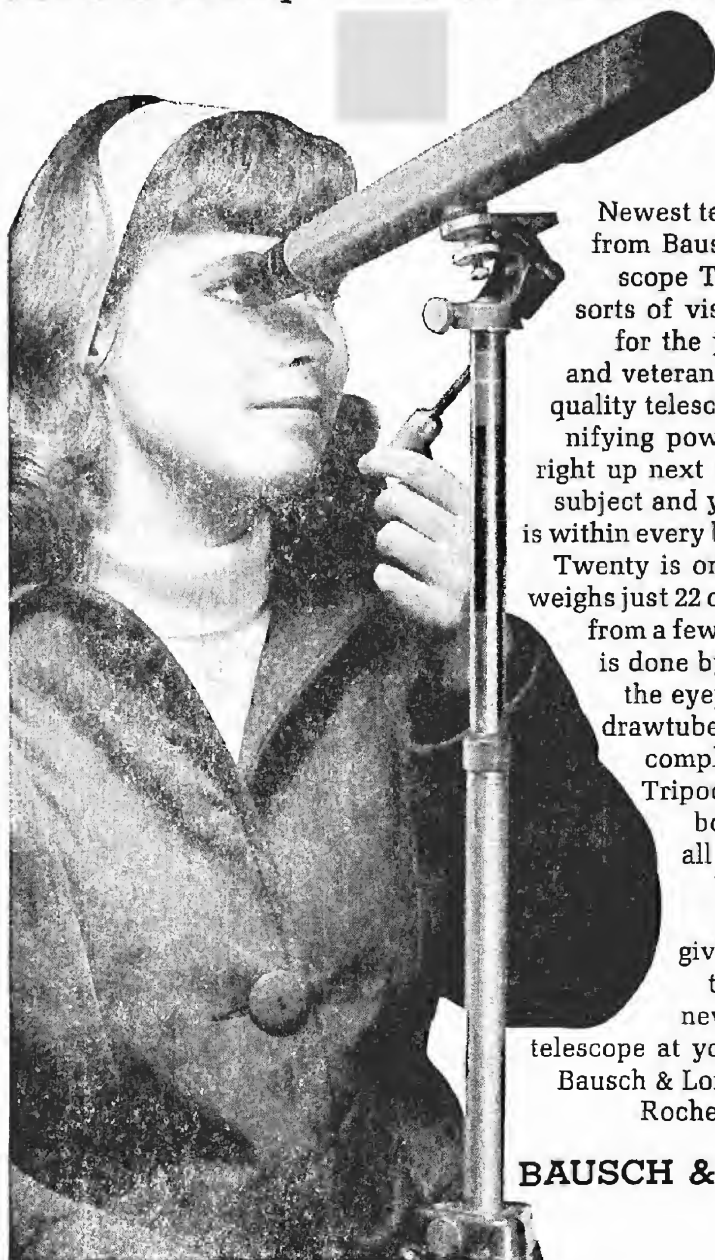
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